

1980-1989

VACAVILLE

THE PAST CENTURY



City races on collision course

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

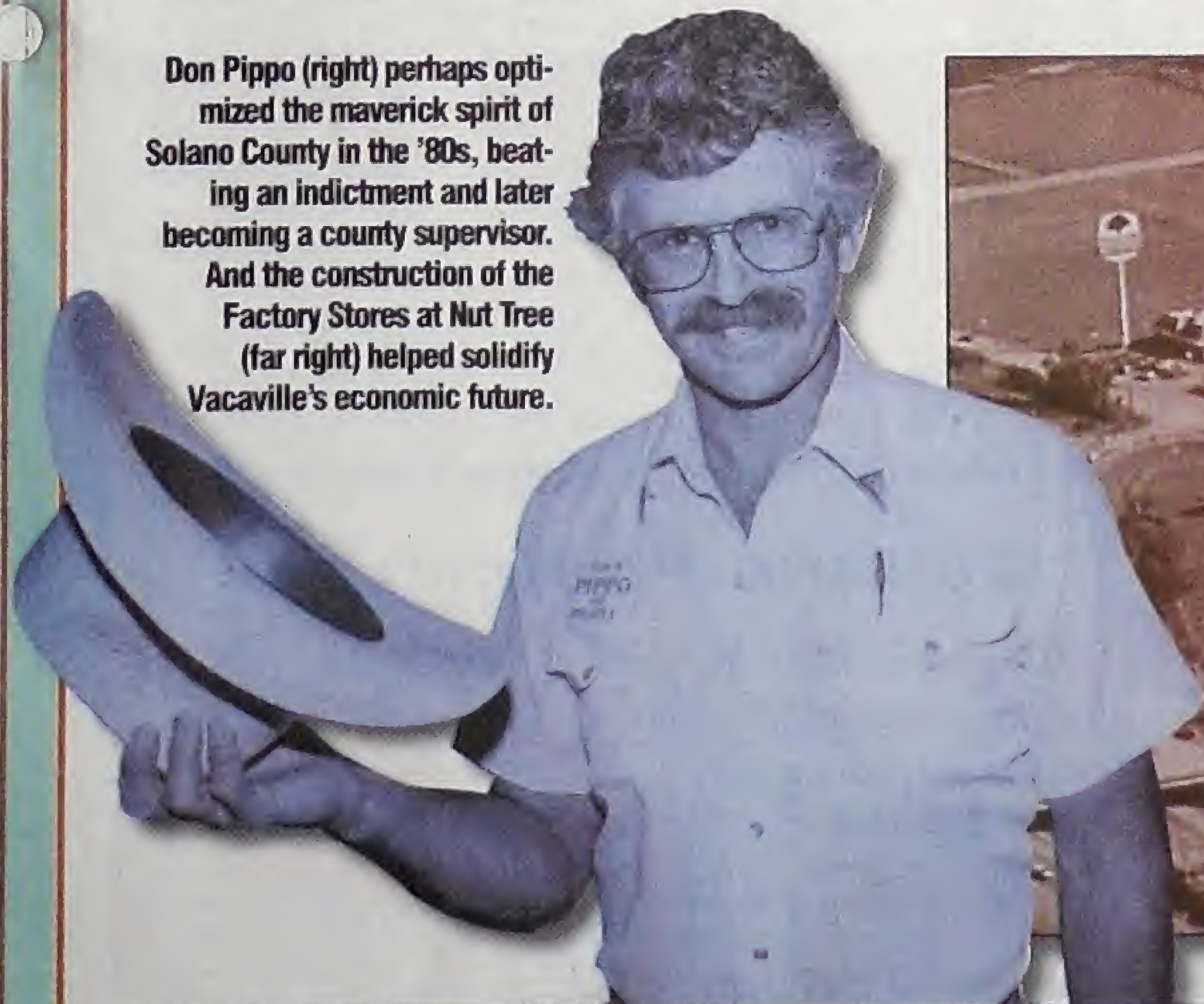
What we wanted was a Superconducting Super Collider. What we got was Factory Stores.

One was a \$4.4 billion, 53-mile-long, doughnut-shaped underground atom smasher. The other was a new-concept venue for name-brand discount stores. One would accelerate bits of matter at high speeds and force them into collisions so physicists could study the particles of debris. The other would create an electromagnetic ecoforce that would inexorably draw shopper buses to Vacaville from throughout the bioregion. Within their own

spectrums, the potential power of the proposals was toss-up awesome.

Destiny kicked in. The subterranean race track vaporized after being zapped by protests, politics and funding. Energized by the economic engine of consumerism, Factory Stores and its emporiums surfaced on the East Interstate-80 tundra. It became a lesson that we would learn time and again in the '80s: A Nike outlet in the hand is better than all the dreams of star wars in the basement. We have corked atomic lightning in a bottle; perhaps someday science will harness the unfathomable energy of migrating weekend (Continued on Page 6)

Don Pippo (right) perhaps optimized the maverick spirit of Solano County in the '80s, beating an indictment and later becoming a county supervisor. And the construction of the Factory Stores at Nut Tree (far right) helped solidify Vacaville's economic future.



John "Mr. Onion" Wyant (top) welcomed visitors to the Onion Festival, a celebration of the area's agrarian past. The Reporter grew with the city and began publishing five days a week early in the '80s. The scarecrow contest (above) and the pumpkin patch at the Nut Tree became local attractions in the '80s.

Stretching the seams

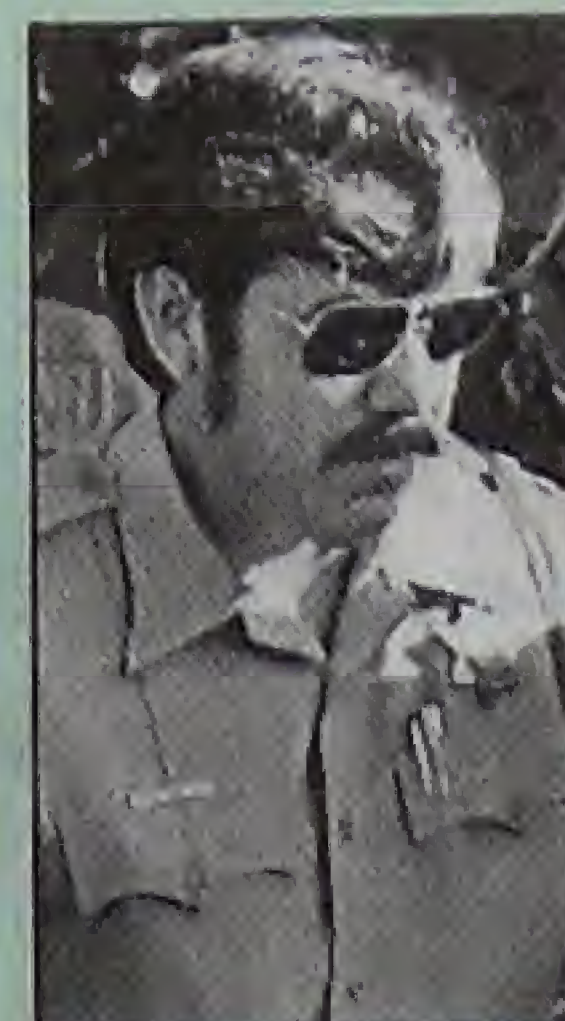
A growing city needs a hospital to care for its citizens. Vacaville got Vaca-Valley Hospital in the '80s. A growing city needs a museum to recount its past. Vacaville got the Vacaville Museum in the '80s. A growing city needs commerce to sustain itself. Vacaville got the Factory Stores at Nut Tree, biotech companies, auto malls and so much more in the '80s. People who live in that growing city need homes. Vacaville got more homes.

And as Vacaville continued to stretch its seams in the 1980s, a movement was spawned to curtail uncontrolled growth, a movement that continues today. The '80s saw the Onion Festival, water wars, recall elections, deadly fires and natural disasters. It saw a failed attempt at a community north of the city. This is the latest installment of "Vacaville: The Past 100 Years," a look at Vacaville history. Assemble this and other chapters of this 10-month special collection.

Growing pains
Vacans struggle with growth. / Page 3

Above & beyond
Four lawmen are killed. / Page 4

Prisons
A second prison and inmates with AIDS arrive. / Page 13



Closing shop
Basic Vegetable closes its doors. / Page 27

LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

1989

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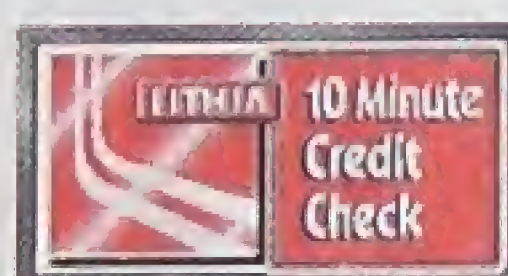
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1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY

Builders push for more homes

Voters organize to fight growth

By Robin Miller
City Editor

It's remembered now as the "me decade," a time marked by a focus on self-interests. But in Vacaville, the 1980s could better be known as the "we decade," a time when local residents joined forces with other Solano communities to fight for their vision of the future.

A slow economy was holding back development in the early 1980s, yet it was during this time that plans were laid for a project that would become the focal point of one of the county's fiercest growth battles — Manzanita.

When San Francisco businessman and developer Hiram Woo unveiled his plan to build a brand-new city in Solano County in the early 1980s, it was greeted with instant opposition.

As originally proposed, the 886-acre development off Interstate 505, near Allendale, was to include a 128-acre industrial park, a golf course and homes for 5,800 people.

"I envision this community as an ideal addition to Solano County," Woo told The Reporter in a Feb. 11, 1983, article.

In his quest for county approval, Woo vehemently argued that the new town would bring hundreds of jobs to an area reeling from the effects of a poor economy.

"When the concept of Manzanita becomes a reality, this design promises to produce an ideal, self-contained community, with affordable housing, light industry to provide jobs, schools, recreation facilities and convenient shopping," he wrote in an April 1983 Reporter commentary. "In brief, it will be a place where the needs and comforts of 5,800 residents can be fulfilled with an aesthetically pleasing environment."

The opposition offered a different perspective, as the mayors of all five northern Solano cities — Vacaville, Fairfield, Dixon, Suisun City and Rio Vista — came out opposing Manzanita. They feared people living in the unincorporated community would rely on their cities to provide services without paying the full cost for them.

More important, though, they

believed approval of the plan would mark a change in county growth policies that had called for urban development to occur within city boundaries.

"Urban development historically has been the responsibility of the cities in our county," is how then-Vacaville Mayor Bill Carroll put it. "This did not occur by accident. It came about through trial and error and years of hard work between past and present city and county staffs and elected officials."

County staff predicted Manzanita would cause an immediate drain on services, such as sheriff's protection and road maintenance, and Solano County planning commissioners voted against it in March 1983.

But a month later, Solano supervisors voted 4-1 to change the county general plan to allow Manzanita, as well as to require a comprehensive development agreement with Woo.

"In Manzanita, the question is not whether the area

will ever become urbanized, but a question of when ... and who is going to control it," County Administrator Richard Watson explained in an April 24, 1983, Reporter article.

Growth, and who would control it, was at the heart of other Solano County debates during the 1980s.

Projects lined up behind Manzanita — and which county officials supported — included Rancho Solano, then proposed as 850 homes outside Fairfield's northwest city limits; a massive redevelopment project to industrialize Collinsville; growth plans in Suisun and Gordon valleys; Thousand Trails, a proposed 260-acre deluxe, private family campground along Putah Creek near Lake Solano Park; and a controversial plan to dump San Francisco garbage in Lynch Canyon, southwest of Fairfield.

Taken in combination, they proved to be the catalyst that united city residents and triggered a showdown that would change the entire county's future.

By 1984, as Woo was talking about adding an additional 160 acres to his planned city, oppo-

"In Manzanita, the question is not whether the area will ever become urbanized, but a question of when ... and who is going to control it."

Richard Watson,
county administrator



Even with mounting pressure to create a future with more homes and more people, Vacaville took time in 1980 to honor its past during the Fiesta Days parade down Main Street.

Growing pains hit Vacaville

By Mike Adamick
Staff Writer

and Karen Nolan
Reporter Correspondent

Vacaville grew by fits and starts during the 1980s, yet by the time the books closed on the decade, an additional 28,000 people were calling the city "home."

It was an impressive increase, considering growth was at a standstill when 1980 arrived. In 1979, the city had issued permits to build 726 new homes. But during 1980, only 83 were requested.

Growth management flew out the door.

Voters ousted controlled-growth advocates Barbara Jones and Carolyn Van Loo from the City Council, replacing them with businessmen John Vasquez and Bill Maher. The new council abandoned growth limits it had set, in what Mayor Bill Carroll called a "psychological" encouragement to builders.

Yet the housing slump, which had as much to do with the economy as anything else, worsened.

Like the rest of the nation, Vacaville was caught in an inflation spiral that seemed to have no end: Rising energy prices were driving up production and transportation costs, which pushed up prices of such essentials as food and clothing. To keep up with rising costs, workers demanded higher salaries, which pushed up prices even more.

At the same time, banks were charging astronomical interest rates — more than 21 percent on some credit cards. Interest rates on home loans were nearly as high, jumping from 13.5 percent in 1980 to 17.5 percent in 1981. Despite a dramatic influx of people to the entire state, fewer of them could afford to buy a home, and that tossed those in the construction industry out of work.

When interest rates began falling in 1981, home builders climbed back on the roller coaster.

"The drought is over," a vice president for Hofmann Co., one of Solano's largest developers, declared when rates hit 12 percent in October 1982. "It's starting to sprinkle."

That year, builders poured 93 foundations in Vacaville and (See Growing, Page 9)

Live Aid, Sony Walkmans and the Onion Festival

By Kimberly Fu
Reporter Feature Writer

The 1980s was a rousing decade rife with political uprisings, the rebirth of arts and entertainment, the celebration of social awareness and change.

Crowds cheered as Great Britain's Prince Charles wed Lady Diana Spencer, were awed by the San Francisco 49ers' three Super Bowl wins, spilled tears over the Tiananmen Square massacre, declared victory with the fall of the Berlin Wall, debated the prospect of AIDS, and rushed to buy newly developed, status-defining personal computers and Sony's Walkman, a form of personal, portable stereo.

Vacaville residents did not escape the storm. Rather, they embraced it. And when a hip Michael Jackson moonwalked

The '80s also brought rebirth in local arts, youth programs

his way onto the music scene, winning a stunning eight American Music Awards for more than five Top 10 hits in 1983, Vacans were behind him all the way.

"Jackson proved to the world that he was the best in the fields of music, dancing and acting," Vacaville High's yearbook staff declared in the 1983 volume. "His unique style will make him immortal in the minds of our generation."

And what a generation it was.

Boasting bands of fashionable Swatch watches and tattered clothes a la "Flashdance," teens tuned in to concert-style fund-raisers that supported the American farmers (Farm Aid), worked to end South African apartheid (Sun City) and helped

ease the pain in famine-shrouded Africa (Live Aid).

Prompted by issues closer to home, Vanden

High senior Dina Clark established the Good News Newspaper in 1981,

focusing on "good, positive stories ignored by the press."

Willis Jepson Junior High School students contributed their own brand of good will in 1982 by establishing a conflict management program at that had students helping students. Soon, similar programs were everywhere. "We want to make our community stronger," Amy Johnson, co-founder of Vacaville High's peer counseling

**Trends
of the
Times**

team, said in a February 1987 Reporter article. "The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow."

But youths weren't the only ones effecting change. In 1983, The Children's Network of Solano County hosted its first annual Onion Festival, a fundraiser to benefit Solano's troubled youths. The event triggered "an outpouring of charity and compassion that caused more tears than a ton of onions ever could," stated an August 1984 Reporter editorial. "And it was all for the conservation of our most precious natural resource — our children."

The arts sparked a small revolution of its own. In the past, residents journeyed far and

wide to enjoy stage productions. That need had disappeared by 1987, with the formation of the Solano County Symphony, Solano Civic Ballet, North Bay Opera and the Vacaville Arts Council. Each group reported sellout performances and energetic audience commendation. "We had standing ovations at the matinee and Sunday evening," Yanina Cywinska, Solano Civic Ballet artistic director, said in a December 1984 Reporter article. "It was a very, very enthusiastic audience. They just couldn't let us go."

The Reporter itself made headlines, becoming a five-day publication in 1983 — Vacaville's first daily newspaper — and publishing seven days a

week by the end of the decade. As such, it recorded the trend of growth and expansion in our small town: the building of Vaca Pena Middle School, the still-born Manzanita deluxe subdivision, the development of the now-defunct \$12 million amusement park, The Wooz, and the opening of the Factory Stores at Nut Tree.

When all is said and done, according to a Reporter columnist at the time, the '80s, was about the maturing of people: "With all due respect, the Eighties will be remembered for their final days: With fire in their bellies and incredible rebirth of their souls, the oppressed rose up in unison and declared they were mad as hell and weren't going to take it anymore. Talk about drama, sing about freedom; we had a plateful."

Vacaville: A Glance BACK

1980

- John Vasquez Jr. and Phil Maher team up to oust slow growth City Council incumbents.
- A home fire claims five family members, and arson fires destroy portions of two local schools.
- CMF Correctional Officer Al Patch is killed during a fight among inmates.

1981

- A recall drive results in four new faces on the school board.
- Fire Chief Dale Geldert resigns after a vote of no confidence. Fire Marshal Bob Powell is named chief.
- Eva Buck donates \$500,000 and land to build a museum.

1982

- Embattled Elmira Fire Chief Don

Pipito, having beaten embezzlement charges, ousts five-term Supervisor Wallace Brazelton.

- Deanna Johnson, 14, is found beaten to death along railroad tracks off Elmira Road on Nov. 16. Two weeks later, Rosa Castaneda, 27, is found dead in her Brown Street apartment. Both cases remain unsolved.

1983

- The Black Oak Restaurant burns

to the ground in an Oct. 23 fire.

1984

- A Solano judge jails a 12-year-old Vacaville girl for refusing to testify against her father in a molestation case.
- CMF South (now known as California State Prison, Solano) is built, despite strong opposition.
- Vacaville City Manager Walt Graham retires after 20 years.

Cuddly toy bears join police force

Just the bear facts, ma'am. That's what Vacaville police will have thanks to an innovative program in which young crime and accident victims will be given cuddly teddy bears to calm them down.

The program, funded by donations, is one aspect of a new victim outreach project spearheaded by the police Traffic Unit. Also included in the project are plans to telephone selected accident victims or mail them get-well cards.

"So often we take a report, we leave and the party would rarely ever see the officer again," said Sgt. Gary Grant, Traffic Unit supervisor. "We want to leave something with the injured party."

The program was born about two months ago when someone asked Grant how the 5-year-old victim of a June 15 auto accident was faring.

"I had no idea, and I felt guilty," Grant said. "That's when I said, 'We have to do something.'"

Grant brainstormed with Crime Prevention Technician Randi Clements, and the two came up with the idea of calling or sending cards to the victims of serious accidents. The bear

idea was also hit on by Grant, who learned that traffic officer Scott Tenney carried a teddy bear in his car to calm small accident victims.

"It seemed like a good idea," said Tenney, who got the idea from a television news segment about an East Coast police department that used the toys. "It's for a situation when a child gets thrown into a bizarre environment where there's no support."

Tenney said he has given away two or three bears to young accident victims.

"This is just a start," Grant said Friday. "Our goal is to provide a teddy bear to all staff. Our immediate goal is to get them to traffic officers."

The get-well cards, which will ask accident victims how they are doing and if they need additional police help, are still being designed, Grant said. A community volunteer will help Grant decide which accident victims get the cards, and will make calls to selected victims.

By Richard Kanes,
Staff Writer

The Reporter, Sept. 10, 1988

Motorcycle officers soon to hit streets

Police officers on Harley-Davidson motorcycles may soon hit the streets of Vacaville to beef up traffic enforcement and drunken driving arrests.

Police Chief Gary Tatum has submitted a 15-page grant request to the City Council and the state Office of Traffic Safety to hire two motorcycle police officers and put them out on the street by Feb. 1.

If approved, the two-year, \$249,000 grant would provide two full-time motorcycle officers and a community service officer to help investigate traffic collisions. The grant would also provide funds for radar units, communication equipment, computers, uniforms and training costs.

In the first year, the city would be responsible for buying two motorcycles, estimated at \$8,000 each, and a radar trailer

at \$6,300. In the second year, the city would be required to pick up half the personnel costs.

According to the grant proposal, the city would pay a total of \$194,500.

If approved, the motorcycle unit would complement the Police Department's traffic unit, which comprises five officers and one sergeant.

Motorcycles offer the advantage of quicker response time to accidents through congested streets and are a "high enforcement tool," according to Capt. Al Winfield.

The primary purpose of the motorcycle unit would be to lower the accident rate in Vacaville by cracking down on motorists driving under the influence of alcohol.

By Fran Clader, Staff Writer

The Reporter, Nov. 21, 1988

Newest cops also youngest

Two of Vacaville's youngest new police officers will hit the streets next week after finishing at the top of their training academy in Santa Rosa.

Dave Gottlieb, 25, a "home-town boy," and Ed Goldberg, 23, last week finished their 12-week training at the Northern California police academy at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Both rookie policemen fin-

ished with academic scores above the class average. They were at the top of the class in physical training.

Goldberg was awarded a trophy for being the cadet with the most improved shooting score.

Gottlieb will be working in the city in which his family lives and in which he graduated from high school.

The Reporter
Dec. 12, 1980

ABOVE AND BEYOND



Officers from throughout the state participated in the funeral procession for Deputy Jose Cisneros, killed in August 1985.



Jose Cisneros is shown during an arrest. Above right, an officer waits with the van stopped in Yolo County and used by two teens later convicted of killing Cisneros.



Solano officers die in the line of duty

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Four area law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty during the 1980s, three of them to homicide and the fourth died in an accident.

Each death showed clearly the high cost — the ultimate cost — law enforcement officers can pay serving and protecting the public.

The decade was only a few months old when an outbreak of violence at the California Medical Facility claimed the lives of correctional officer Al Patch, 44, and inmate Charles Gardner.

The August 1980 fight lasted only moments, but it took years for justice to be served.

Inmates Larry Roberts and Archie Menefield were charged with the murders. Reported to be members of a prison gang known as the Black Guerrilla Family, Menefield and Roberts attacked rival Gardner with prison-

made knives. Gardner, bleeding from his wounds, chased his assailants up a flight of stairs, where he encountered officer Patch, a 16-year veteran and a Vacaville resident, who had come to the stairs to investigate the altercation.

When Patch tried to stop Gardner, Gardner stabbed Patch. Both died of their wounds within hours.

After years of pre-trial haggling, Roberts and Menefield were charged in a precedent-setting interpretation of "vicarious liability." Prosecutors argued that Gardner lost so much blood in the attack that he was in a trance state known as "hypovolemic shock" and therefore acted on Roberts' behalf when stabbing Patch to death. The jury agreed.

Roberts was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death — the first CMF inmate to be so sentenced.

His conviction in Patch's death was later overturned. (See Slain officers, Page 5)

Rose and John were looking forward to retiring at the end of the '80's. Their hope has always been that their children would each be able to have their own floral and gift shop. All their hard work had paid off when David and Janet took over all managerial tasks and began preparing to take over the full operation of the shop in 1990.

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1985

■ Voters overrule a county Board of Supervisors decision from two years earlier and reject plans to build the town of Manzanita.

■ Solano County sheriff's Deputy Jose Cisneros is shot to death during a traffic stop at Pleasant Valley and Cherry Glen roads.

■ Concerns about medical waste and contamination are raised when residents learn that CMF is treating all Northern California inmates with AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex (ARC).

1986

■ An eight-day deluge in February threatens to flood homes and causes millions of dollars worth of damage.

■ Basic Vegetable Products Inc. closes its Vacaville processing plant.

■ CMF becomes the nation's largest prison when the inmate population at its two facilities tops 8,300.

1987

■ Vacaville joins Solano and Yolo counties in

a unsuccessful bid to become the site of the world's largest atom smasher.

■ VacaValley Hospital opens.

■ First biotechnology firms arrive: Biosource Technologies and Alza Corp.

■ Vacaville High School wins a National Distinguished School award.

1988

■ A fire on Mount Vaca rages for a week and burns 38,000 acres.

■ Factory Stores at Nut Tree and The Woolz open.

1989

■ Bank of America announces it will build corporate offices in Lagoon Valley.

■ Solano County survives the Oct. 17 earthquake.

■ Vacaville voters approve Measure I, which raises money to build the Cultural Center and new ball fields.

Unsolved Vaca homicides grab spotlight in '80s

Police detectives keep Johnson, Castaneda cases open

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

A pair of killings and a kidnapping — all of which remain unresolved to this day — were among the crimes that garnered media attention in the 1980s.

Police files are still open on the killings, which occurred within months of each other in 1982.

"These are the type of cases we never close (while they remain unsolved)," Vacaville Police Lt. Ed Goldberg said recently. "Sometimes it's just a matter of someone coming forward and giving us some information. ... Homicide investigation is always difficult."

On Nov. 15 of that year, railroad workers discovered the brutally beaten body of 14-year-old DeAnna Johnson beside the train tracks off Elmira Road. Johnson, a student at Will C. Wood Junior High, had last been seen alive the night before, when she attended a party at a nearby home.

Vacaville police investigators retrieved at least two weapons used in

the attack, interviewed more than 300 people and amassed thousands of pages of information. Grand juries were convened, and Johnson's body was even exhumed two years after the crime to collect additional evidence.

In October 1986, police finally arrested a suspect, but he was cleared of the charges and released 26 days later because of a lack of evidence.

"The case is solvable," police Lt. Larry Krannichfeld, now retired, said in a Reporter story published in 1990.

"We're missing a couple of links to put it all together," added Detective Joe Munoz, also retired from police work.

A second killing that occurred a month after Johnson was found slain also remains unsolved.

The body of Rosa Castaneda, 27, was discovered on the living room floor of her Brown Street apartment Dec. 18, 1982. She had been stabbed in the neck 12 to 24 hours earlier. Despite a \$1,000 reward, police have had little to go on.

Goldberg said that to this day, each of those unsolved murders is assigned to a detective and reviewed periodically for a

"fresh look."

The case of a missing Fairfield boy also remains unsolved, more than 16 years after his disappearance. Three-year-old Clark Toshiro Handa was kidnapped from the bedroom of his Fairfield home in August 1984. According to published reports, a ransom note was left, but the kidnappers did not make contact.

One other story that attracted the attention of Vacans and residents nationwide was a courtroom drama that unfolded in January 1984.

A 12-year-old Vacaville girl who refused to testify against her stepfather in a molestation trial was jailed in solitary confinement by Judge John DeRonde.

The girl spent seven days in solitary confinement at Juvenile Hall before she was moved to a foster home. Without her testimony, the district attorney didn't have enough evidence and the case was dismissed.

Then-state Sen. Barry Keene later authored a bill that would allow hearsay evidence to be entered in certain child molestation trials.



The deaths of DeAnna Johnson (left) and Rosa Castaneda remain unsolved.

Reporter file photo

Slain officers ...

(Continued from Page 4)

although he remains on death row for killing Gardner.

Menefield was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The next officer to be killed was Fairfield Police Sgt. Art Koch, who was shot in the chest as he approached the home of Stanley Verkettis on July 28, 1984.

Koch had been to the home before, knew of the fellow Vietnam War veteran and thought he could calm the situation. He could not.

Koch, a 33-year-old Vacaville resident and father of three, died eight hours later.

The Solano County District Attorney's office charged Verkettis with premeditated and deliberate first-degree murder. Verkettis' attorneys argued that the gunman suffered from post-Vietnam stress syndrome and was not responsible for his actions.

The case endured two trials, and earned the distinction of becoming the county's longest, eventually costing nearly \$2 million. The first trial, which included 29 days of deliberation, ended in December 1986 with jurors split between first- and second-degree murder convictions.

The second trial ended in January 1988 with a conviction of first-degree murder. Verkettis was sent to prison for life without the possibility of parole.

A year after Koch was killed, Solano County sheriff's deputy Jose Cisneros, 41, was gunned down when, while following up on a littering and "suspicious person" report, he stopped to check on a van parked on Pleas-

ants Valley Road at the Cherry Glen intersection near Vacaville.

Tragically, neither Cisneros nor the Solano County Sheriff's Office ever received a bulletin that had been issued earlier that day to nine law enforcement agencies, alerting them that the van had been stolen.

Inside the van were Michael Remington, who was 17 at the time of the Aug. 25, 1985, shooting, and John Kirk, 18. Remington shot the deputy when he reached for his handgun.

Both suspects were tried as adults, with prosecutors accusing them of first-degree murder.

Jurors in December 1987 convicted Remington of second-degree murder and eight lesser counts. Calling the slaying "calculated and cowardly," Superior Court Judge John A. DeRonde in April 1988 sent Remington to prison for 31 years to life — the maximum sentence allowed.

In January 1988, Kirk pleaded guilty to armed voluntary manslaughter and seven lesser charges. He also was given the maximum sentence: 17 years in prison.

The last of the Solano County law enforcement officers to die in the '80s was George Butler, 52, a flight officer for the California Highway Patrol. Butler was killed Dec. 8, 1986, when he walked into the rotating blades of a helicopter at the scene of an Interstate 80 accident near Dixon.

All four men, along with 11 others, are listed on the county's Law Enforcement Memorial in front of the Solano County Jail in downtown Fairfield.



Officers salute as the coffin of CMF Correctional Officer Al Patch is carried from McCune Garden Chapel.

Reporter photos

Lost in the Line of Duty

The following is a list of the Solano County law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty:

- George Butler, 52, a California Highway Patrol flight officer, killed Dec. 8, 1986, when he walked into the rotating blades of a helicopter at an accident scene on Interstate 80 near Dixon.
- Jose Cisneros, 41, a Solano County sheriff's deputy killed Aug. 25, 1985, by two armed felons near Vacaville.
- Arthur W. Koch, 33, a Fairfield police officer shot July 29, 1984, while responding to a report of a shooting.
- Albert W. Patch, 44, a California Medical Facility correctional officer killed Aug. 17, 1980, in a knife attack during an inmate fight.
- Gary L. Hughes, 38, a CHP officer killed May 23, 1976, by a drunken driver while trying to arrest another drunken driver.
- Steven Armenta, 43, a state narcotics officer, killed Dec. 5, 1973, during a drug arrest in Benica.
- William L. Easson Jr., 29, a Vallejo police officer shot April 7, 1966, during a traffic stop.

- Calvin C. Thacker, 35, a Vallejo officer shot April 7, 1966, during a traffic stop.
- Charles H. Sorenson, 32, a CHP officer shot March 15, 1963, trying to arrest two armed robbery and shooting suspects in Rio Vista.
- Hale Humphrey, 42, a Solano County sheriff's deputy killed March 15, 1963, at a roadblock while trying to arrest Sorenson's killer on state Highway 12 near Suisun City.
- Anson G. Burdick, 65, a Suisun constable shot Sept. 1, 1927, by a transient in Suisun City.
- James B. Power, 33, of the Solano County Traffic Department, who was killed March 25, 1925, in a traffic collision on state Highway 29 near Vallejo.
- Dan McKinnon, a Silveville Township constable shot Nov. 22, 1918.
- Jarvis P. Emigh, 36, a Rio Vista constable shot Aug. 29, 1914, while trying to arrest an armed burglary suspect.
- John Howard, a Rio Vista constable gunned down by a burglar on June 20, 1892.

Do You Remember?



Jim and Bob Tooke

Bob & Jim Tooke purchased the restaurant Asahi in December 1984 in Downtown Vacaville. After completely remodeling the inside, Merchant & Main opened their doors in June 1985 serving lunch and dinner 7 days a week. In 1986 they added a full service bar and in 1989 catering for weddings and special occasions.

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Travelling back through time: 1980-1989



Joe Jr.

Barber Joe's was booming. With four chairs already filled, Joe needed to expand his shop. In 1980 Joe Jr. joined his father and sisters in the family business. The shop was expanded and three more stations were added to the four already working. More stylists were added, and Barber Joe, along with all three of his children, were now all operating a successful downtown business. As in past decades, Barber Joe's watched as the downtown evolved around them.



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Collision course ♦♦♦

(Continued from Cover)

shoppers hell bent on bargains. Vacaville found itself on a collision course with its own ideals more than once during the 1980s. As science-fictional as the Super Collider seemed, the prospect was real. The tunnel would have looped from near Winters to near north Vacaville. What went around under the surface would have been supported above ground by headquarters and science buildings on an 8,000-acre reservation. A tempting plum: 2,500 jobs. The so-called Vacaville site was one of two being considered by the California Collider Commission. The other was near Stockton. In no small way it would have changed the local landscape, let alone leveled the regional playing field. The entire international scientific community would have been focused on Vacaville and its Superconducting Super Collider. And we wanted it. Or at least some of us did.

Oddly enough, within a few years of the decade, another kind of science fiction materialized above ground, a proposal for an entirely new north Vacaville city. It would have been called Manzanita. San Francisco accountant and would-be developer Hiram Woo had a dream: To build an entire city from scratch, a self-contained community of 2,000 solar-powered homes with places for people to work, shop and relax, and all linked by a network of walking and biking trails. Believers said it would have created 6,700 jobs, a boon to Solano County's economy, especially in light of 1980s fears of layoffs at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo.

Manzanita would have been built 1 1/2 miles north of Vacaville on unincorporated land. To make it happen Woo had to win



the approval of county voters who stipulated by a ballot measure in 1984 that large developments thereafter in the unincorporated areas would thereafter require voter approval.

Although he was successful in getting enough signatures for a vote, Woo faced stiff opposition from a group calling itself the Orderly Growth Committee. Its spokesman was Craig McNamara of Winters. The son of U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara during the President Lyndon Johnson administration, the younger McNamara's name and voice would be seen and heard during planning debates many times during the decade.

After spending \$3 million and five years of his life on his dream, Woo put the question to voters in the form of Measure M: Manzanita, yes or no. They said no.

But commerce also rises. After much planning and little debate, earth movers in 1987 began scraping old orchardlands on the east side of I-80

near the Coffee Tree restaurant to make way for developer Willey Creek's "Factory Stores at Nut Tree." Seemingly overnight, a long-standing frustration over "Too many homes and not enough retail" was appeased. Name-brand stores offering discount prices started moving in, and so did shoppers, especially on weekends. Factory stores began one shopping center after another, energizing Vacaville's entire freeway corridor. And it also gave birth to a new phenomenon for the once-rural town: Traffic gridlock.

Factory Stores signaled an upturn in the Vacaville economy. Earlier in the decade, the growth moratoriums of the '70s were shelved and slow-growth members of the City Council were replaced by pro-growthers John Vasquez Jr. and Bill Maher. But no sooner had building slowed than it started booming again. By the end of the decade the city put a lid on home building permits. And despite the public services fund-

ing atrophy imposed by the tax-limiting Proposition 13 — or because of it — Vacaville voters decided to push ahead with a \$52.8 million Measure I bond for a new library, community center, theater complex, plus ballfields and road repairs.

Proudly dubbed "Onion City" in the 1930s, in 1983 Vacaville said goodbye to onions and garlic and a long history of being considered a company town. A year after its 50th anniversary, Basic Vegetable Products shut down its processing plant on Davis Street. Since before World War II — when it played a vital role in providing ingredients for battlefield meals — Basic provided work for countless Vacaville families. But as its doors were shut, a window opened in the new Chevron Land and Development Co. industrial park north of the city. A new word crept into the Vacaville vocabulary: Biotechnology. Even if the science wasn't universally understood, anyone could understand the rise of new,

high-tech buildings on the northern frontier.

In rapid sequence, civic wish lists began filling up. Local philanthropist Eva Buck donated \$500,000 for a new museum on Buck Avenue; a second high school — Will C. Wood — was built to serve the growing south side of I-80; and after decades of fruitless efforts and allegedly false promises, Vacaville got its own hospital. VacaValley Hospital opened in 1987.

Water would forevermore be an issue; in cities, in the county and even then for the English Hills region. A power generating plant was built at the base of Monticello Dam. Water wars and battles with Vacaville's Fire Chief Dale Geldert helped launch Supervisor Don "White Hat" Pippo into politics. In schools, a controversial raise for the superintendent led to a recall of local school board members. In the process, longtime administrator Lyle Welch was named to replace Superintendent Robert Brickman.

Someone came up with the idea that Vacaville could develop and support an auto mall on Orange Drive, making good a similar but aborted attempt in Fairfield. And after more than two decades of leading the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce, popular executive Tom McNunn retired in 1989.

As the headcount grew and issues mushroomed, there became an increasing awareness of our place in the 20th century. We were running, but time was running out. In 10 short years we would be writing "2000" on our checks. This had to be incomprehensible to the men and women working in Vacaville's fruit industry in the first few decades of this century. But here we were, living in a digital world built on a true-grit foundation of our forebears. We were racing toward a supercollision after all — with the new millennium. And it looked like we were going to make it.



Growth in and around Vacaville continued to be a contentious issue, even as Boulder Valley homes, shown in this May 1988 photo, came to life. At left, Bill Maher and John Vasquez Jr. (right) scored an upset when they ousted slow-growth opponents in a City Council race.

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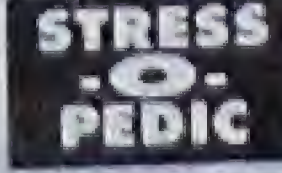
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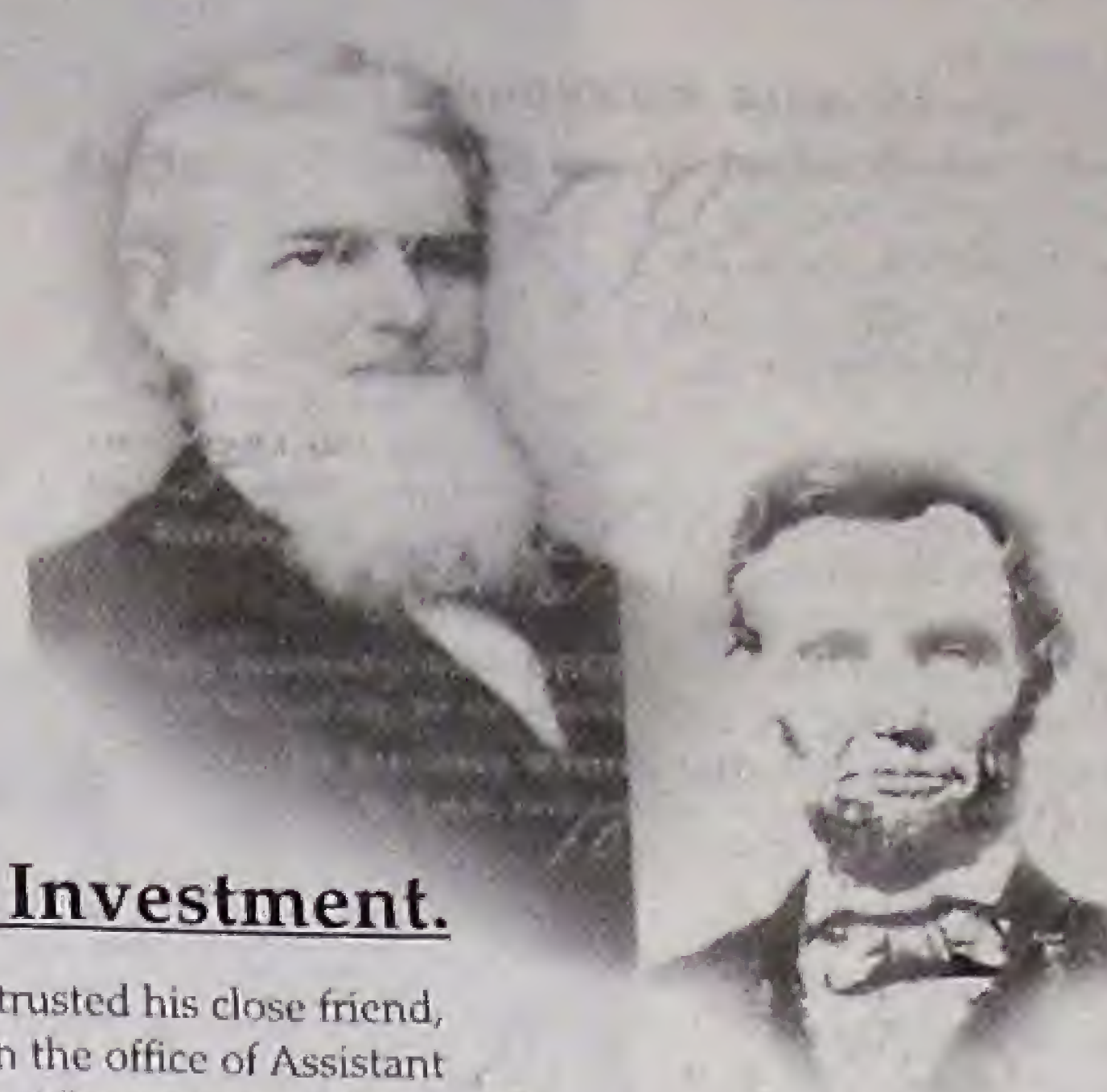
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Growth ...

(Continued from Page 3)

nents of Manzanita and the other rural developments had organized.

Calling themselves The Orderly Growth Initiative Committee, opponents challenged county officials and quickly qualified an initiative for the June 1984 ballot.

Proposition A, as the Orderly Growth Initiative would come to be known, would ban major developments from land designated for intensive farming or open space on the county's general plan until 1995. In short, it would require urban development to occur within incorporated cities.

By a margin of 268 votes, the ballot measure was approved on June 5, 1984. Later that year, voters spoke again, trouncing the proposed Lynch Canyon dump site.

Interestingly, it was the northern Solano County cities, particularly Vacaville and Dixon, that ensured Proposition A's victory. The measure had failed by a 6-4 margin in the larger, southern Solano city of Vallejo.

"With the passage of Proposition A, the dream of Hiram Woo ... to build the new town of Manzanita north of Vacaville was brought to an abrupt halt," The Reporter noted at the time.

But Woo was not ready to give up.

He proposed building Manzanita as ranchettes on 2 1/2- to 5-acre parcels. Supervisors declined to ask voters to approve the idea, but Woo and his supporters gathered voter signatures and qualified the initiative for the May 1985 ballot.

Voters buried Measure M, with 22,974 (65.6 percent) voting against it.

Woo did not hide his disappointment. The vote, he said, told him and other developers that "this county is not ready for this type of development."

The vote was a signal to elected officials as well.

"Manzanita's demise ... told Solano County leaders what they already knew — local voters want rural land to remain rural and new growth directed to cities," a May 9, 1985, Reporter article declared.



Roseann Cabrera and Buck Dennis celebrate in May 1985 when voters defeated plans to build ranchettes near Vacaville.

But if voters thought the end of Manzanita marked the end of growth wars, they soon found out how wrong they were.

The battle to rein in county urbanization paved the way for city expansion, particularly in Fairfield where, by mid-1985, thousands of acres of land were being moved through planning channels — including the Rancho Solano project, which was annexed into the city.

When Vacaville officials voted to include Lagoon Valley in its city's sphere of influence, they drew criticism.

Vacaville viewed Lagoon Valley as the city's gateway, and the City Council was eager to see that it had a voice in how and when it might be developed. It also was sending a shot across the bow of burgeoning Fairfield, warning it not to make designs on the pristine valley.



Solano County residents, including those in Vacaville, said no to San Francisco's trash plan in 1984, when local citizens voted against allowing the city's garbage to be dumped in Lynch Canyon, southwest of Fairfield.

Gasohol debuts locally

Gasohol is here — the first gas station in Vacaville to offer the gasoline-alcohol blend started pumping the liquid at 10 this morning.

The Beacon station at 800 Merchant St. is not the first in the county to offer gasohol — a Fairfield station earned that distinction — but it is the first since President Carter's grain embargo and the taking of American hostages in Iran, so the pumping of gasohol has new meaning this time around.

Pat Watkins, zone manager for the Beacon Oil Company, said the 10 percent alcohol that goes into the mixture is purchased from alcohol refineries in the Midwest, companies that make the alcohol from corn and wheat. Corn is the main source of the alcohol, he said.

"Do you realize that by 1985, we could save 40,000 barrels of oil a day using gasohol?" he asked rhetorically.

Watkins said alcohol costs \$2 per gallon, so gasohol generally costs six to seven cents more than regular unleaded gasoline. The Vacaville Beacon station started pumping "Premium Unleaded Gasohol" today at \$1.23 per gallon.

Watkins said the notion that gasohol will provide better mileage has not yet been proved, although studies are being made, and he said many customers have reported they do get better mileage ...

Mayor Bill Carroll was invited by the Beacon Oil Company to be the first to fill his tank with the new fuel.

The Reporter
Jan. 16, 1980

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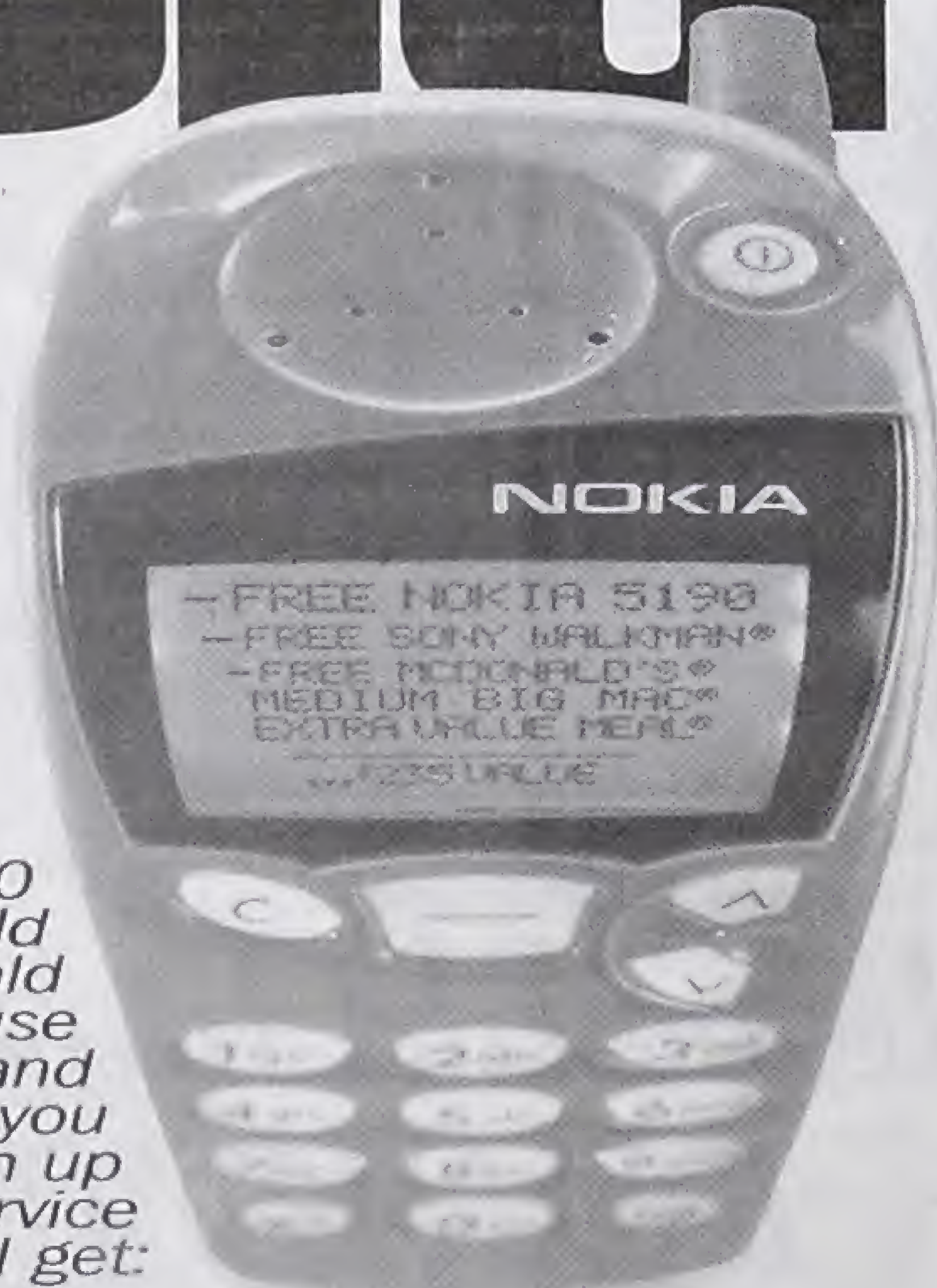


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REPORTER
1980-1989
THE PAST CENTURY

Waging water wars

Residents caught in crossfire

By Elizabeth Murtaugh
and Karen Nolan
Special to The Reporter

As Solano County and the rest of the state swelled into the 1980s, the burgeoning populace began wondering how long it would take before faucets started running dry.

Water wars raged between the north — home to most of California's water — and the south, where more than 90 percent of the state's population lived.

Vacaville and its neighbors sided with the rest of Northern California in 1982 and defeated the Peripheral Canal proposal, which would have piped Sacramento Delta water south.

Solano voters had good reason to hang onto delta water. They were already in line to receive some themselves.

The North Bay Aqueduct, on the boards since the 1960s, was designed to bring delta water into Solano and Napa counties — cheaply. But when local officials pressed the state to turn on the delta tap, they quickly realized it would be anything but.

Vacaville's 1979 estimates put the cost of aqueduct water at 12 times what it was then paying for treated well water and four times that of Lake Berryessa water.

But without a new water source, Vacaville would be unable to grow at all.

Fairfield, Suisun City and Benicia had already come to that conclusion, and eventually all seven Solano cities signed onto the project — even if only to guarantee their ability to buy water in the future.

Early decade arguments over the project included where to draw the water from (Barker Slough, 12 miles northwest of Rio Vista); where to route the giant pipelines (around the sensitive Jepson Prairie and, via rights-of-way, to a reservoir in Cordelia); and — the biggest of all — how to pay for the project.

It took until fall 1985 to put the funding mechanism in place: unusual "zone-of-benefit" tax that excluded some Solano property owners but required others, such as Vacaville residents, to pay an additional property tax that amounted to about \$20 a year for a house worth \$100,000. The project was four years



Work crews use a 150-ton crane to lower the 41,000-pound sections of pipes into a ditch while building a portion of the North Bay Aqueduct near Highway 113 south of Hay Road in October 1986.

behind schedule at its groundbreaking in 1984. By the time the 24-mile concrete pipeline was ready to carry water in 1988, costs — estimated \$30 million in 1978 — stood at nearly \$100 million.

Other water issues also garnered local attention during the 1980s:

- The Solano Irrigation District won right to build a hydroelectric plant at the base of Lake Berryessa's Monticello Dam.

- The state told SID to stop providing untreated irrigation water to homes and businesses in four rural areas outside Vacaville that it had been serving since 1976. The tap stayed on, however, and the two worked out

an agreement in 1990.

- Residents in two pockets of rural Vacaville locked horns over conflicting visions of how to bring in water.

By 1987, Steiger Hill residents — who that summer were carting water by bucket to their homes so they could flush toilets and take showers — sought to establish a private water system. The proposal sparked a yearlong conflict-of-interest debate because the wells the residents wanted to tap were owned by Solano County Supervisor Don Pippo and Planning Commissioner Jim Cassil.

Homeowners in English Hills to the north, worried that the system would bring more develop-

ment, challenged the proposal, saying it could drain the ground water for the entire region.

The county ruled that a private water district would violate its general plan, yet in 1988 it turned a blind eye when Pippo began piping irrigation water across his own land to 20, drought-stricken Steiger Hill properties.

By the end of the decade, English and Steiger hills homeowners were working together to establish a public water system for the entire area.

The intervening decade would prove wholly inaccurate. The Reporter's headline of March 19, 1988: "English Hills water war settled."

Pippo politics flashes, fades in fervent '80s

By Karen Nolan
Reporter correspondent

Time and again throughout the 1980s, Vacaville's political spotlight was focused on a "maverick" from English Hills, Don Pippo.

In 1980, Pippo was the 36-year-old chief of the Elmira Fire District, which served rural areas north and east of Vacaville, and he was already butting heads with Dale Geldert, the new chief of the Vacaville Fire Department, which served both the city and rural areas south and west of town.

Hostilities between the two were part personality clash and part apprehension over new-fangled, city-style firefighting ideas Geldert brought with him from Southern California. By 1981, their conflict was spilling over in public ways.

Geldert had halted Vacaville ambulance service to the Elmira district, and Elmira had beat Vacaville in purchasing a pair of used fire rigs, one of which Elmira firefighters drove through that May's Fiesta Days parade with a needling sign: "You Snooze, You Lose."

When the devastating Fourth of July blaze exploded in Gibson Canyon, just outside Elmira's district, Pippo's fire crews were left out of a countywide call for help. They showed up anyway. "We will not sit idly by while homes burn," Pippo told Elmira fire commissioners during a heated meeting afterward.

Pippo was also under attack from the county auditor-controller, who had found problems with district financial records. The auditor's complaint went to the grand jury, which in June 1981 returned felony indictments against Pippo, accusing him of mishandling public money. Weeks later, Pippo found himself facing misdemeanor assault charges stemming from a run-in with an on-duty Vacaville fire crew.

When the legal smoke cleared, Pippo stood vindicated.

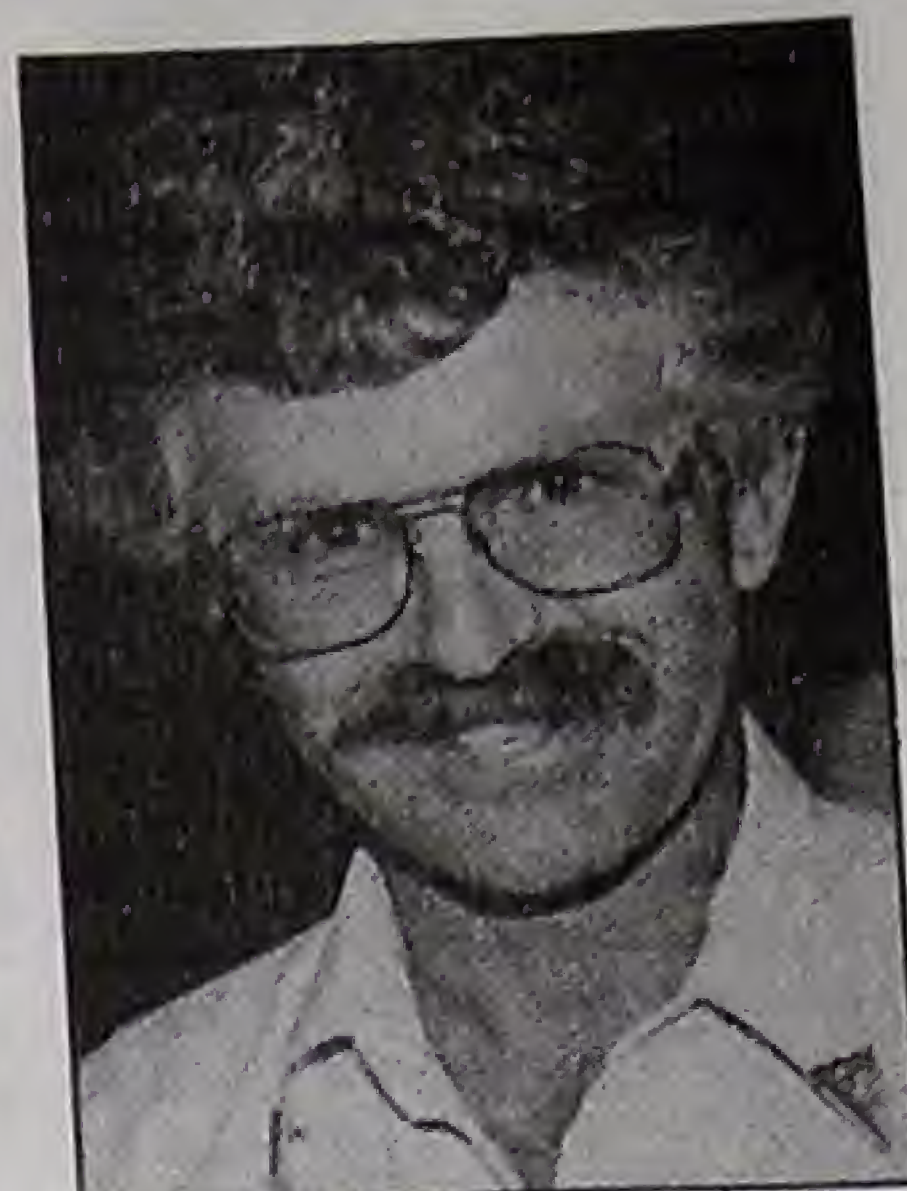
Jurors deciding the assault case took only an hour to return not guilty verdicts. The financial case ended in April 1982 with acquittals on most counts and jurors deadlocked, but leaning toward acquittal, on the rest.

One juror called it a case of "trying to administer the county by jury trial." Jury foreman George Scanlon said it "made the whole county government look like it didn't have its act together."

Pippo couldn't have agreed more. And he was doing something about it.

Three months earlier — hours after he had been ousted as Elmira's fire chief and weeks before he was reinstated — Pippo threw his trademark white cowboy hat into the political ring, challenging 20-year incumbent Wally Brazelton for a seat on the Board of Supervisors.

Campaigning with the slogan "He's the Good Guy," Pippo advocated returning power to taxpayers by holding night meetings so residents could



Don Pippo
... fire chief, supervisor

attend, electing — not appointing — directors of special districts, and balancing the budget by cutting management staff and pay instead of employees.

When Brazelton tried to use Pippo's legal troubles against him, jury foreman Scanlon rebuked him in a letter that the People for Pippo Committee distributed widely. "The jury voted overwhelmingly to declare Don Pippo INNOCENT of any wrongdoing," Scanlon wrote. "I live in the 4th District and I will vote for Don Pippo for Supervisor."

When votes were counted in November, Pippo had won by a 3-2 margin.

In his first term, Pippo routinely railed against overregulation, big spending and waste in county management. He consistently voted "no, no no" on importing San Francisco's garbage and dumping it in pristine Lynch Canyon — a stance in tune with voters who ultimately rejected the plan.

Yet Pippo was out of step on the issue of where and how the county should grow. He opposed the Orderly Growth Initiative (Proposition A), which forced development inside city limits, and he supported Manzanita, a new town proposed for 886 acres off Interstate 505, near Alameda.

Voters who decided those issues disagreed, but Pippo's positions didn't hurt him when he stood re-election in 1986, challenged by Vacaville Mayor Bill Carroll. In a race characterized as being more about leadership styles than substantive differences on issues, Pippo dusted off his campaign slogan — "He's Still the Good Guy" — and took 57 percent of the vote — a landslide, he declared.

The two faced off again four years later, but by then Pippo had alienated many former supporters and neighbors who opposed development in English Hills and who worried that his efforts on behalf of a private water system in neighboring Steiger Hills would only encourage it. Carroll also campaigned more vigorously the second time, attacking Pippo's support for building homes near Travis Air Force Base. Pippo closed out the decade in the supervisor's seat, but when the votes were counted in 1990, it was Carroll, with 60 percent, who was riding the landslide.

Wind blows in for holiday blackout

Most of Solano County was plunged into darkness Wednesday afternoon as winds gusting to 90 mph ripped through the Alamo Pass area near Tracy and toppled eight high-voltage electrical towers.

The problem was complicated locally by 60 mph gusts around Vallejo that sent a 115,000-volt tower crashing into the waters of the Mare Island Strait.

The Vallejo tower went down about 4:05 p.m. Wednesday, with the regional blackout caused by the Tracy mishap occurring about 4:30 p.m., according to Pacific Gas & Electric

spokesmen.

California lost about 2.8 million kilowatts of electrical power when the Tracy towers went down, affecting 2 1/2 million customers statewide. In Solano County, an estimated 60,000 PG&E customers were left in the dark, most of them from about 4:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Vacaville, Fairfield and Suisun City were completely blacked out, along with large portions of Vallejo, Benicia and the rural county area. Dixon and Davis escaped the brunt of the widespread outage.

Last-minute Christmas shoppers found

themselves standing in darkened stores while clerks wrung their hands beside silent electronic cash registers. ...

Most Solano County residents had power again by about 8 p.m. Wednesday, although a few isolated areas — like Grizzly Island — were still without electricity Thursday morning.

Additionally, about 35,000 residents throughout the North Bay were still waiting for power to be restored Thursday afternoon, a utility spokesman reported.

By Brian Hamlin, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 24, 1982

Growing pains put Vacaville on roller coaster ride during the '80s ...

(Continued from Page 3)
completed 61 homes. The following year, 136 foundations were poured. Home building jumped an additional 26 percent in 1984.

That same year, developers renewed their interest in apartment construction, which had been abandoned when interest rates skyrocketed. By October 1984, only 37 vacancies were reported among Vacaville's more than 2,000 apartment units. Average rents of \$348 for one bedroom and \$378 for two bedrooms represented a respective 54.7 percent and 47.3 percent jump in price over four years.

Believing the market was ripe,

builders began submitting plans for apartment projects, and by Christmas 1984, 10 major apartment projects — representing as many as 1,588 new units — had surfaced.

Many were under construction by 1985, which in September was declared the city's best building season in five years. The new apartments filled as quickly as they opened over the next two years.

By 1986, city staff was working overtime to keep up with the demand for plan checks, building permits and inspections. When Vacaville approved 1,000 permits for homes in 1987, construction was Solano County's No. 2

industry.

Demand remained strong in 1988, even as the area's average home price climbed to \$95,000 — higher than houses in the neighboring Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, but substantially lower than the average \$175,950 residents on both sides of the San Francisco Bay were paying.

By 1989, homes in Vacaville's five newest developments were selling for \$99,900 to \$191,000. The city's population was closing in on the 71,479 total reached in 1990, and the city once again was wrestling with the question first raised in the late 1970s: How does a city plan growth? Like its predecessor, this

City Council answered first by declining to issue any home building permits at all for 45 days, and then by limiting the number it would allow each year.

As more people moved in, city services were enhanced.

The city expanded the sewer plant and installed soundwalls on Interstate 80. It spearheaded efforts to buy and preserve Old Rocky — a landmark, northside mountaintop — by pitching in \$100,000 and seeking out an additional \$25,000 in donations. It also pushed for passage of Measure I, a \$60-a-year tax that would pay for a new library, theater and community center — now collectively known as the Vacaville

Cultural Center.

City leaders also scrambled to set up redevelopment districts, which were then a still-new method to pay for the infrastructure needed if growth was to continue.

Redevelopment diverted property tax away from the city, county and special districts and used the money for such things as sewer lines, streets and parking spaces.

"Growth is coming. It's inevitable," City Manager John Thompson told The Reporter in 1988. "We need to make sure we're prepared to guide it in the right direction."

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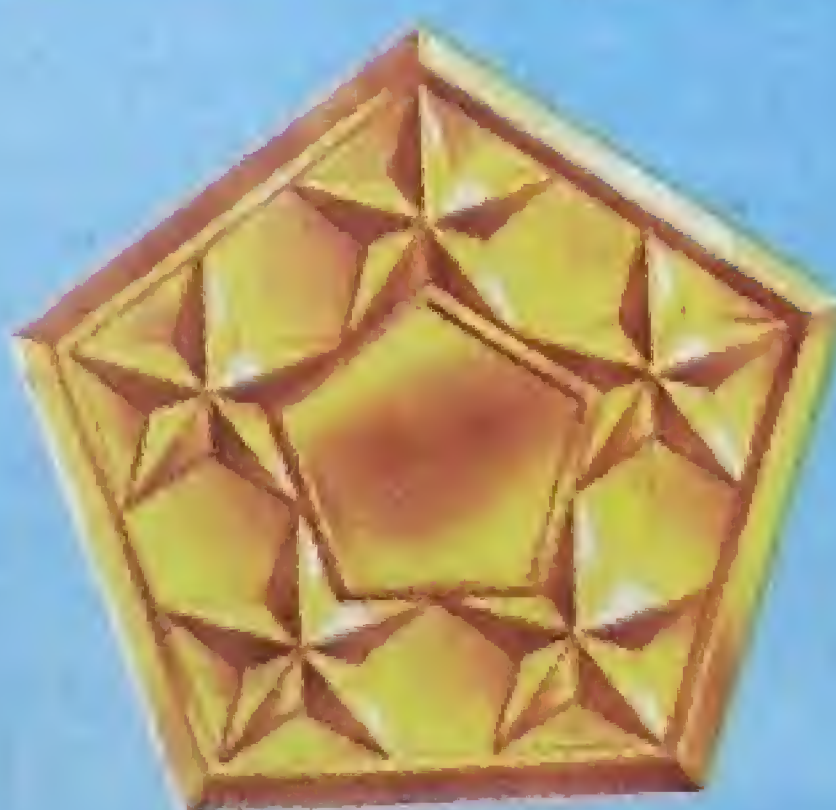
Through it all, we continued to march forward. That's because a special trait of Americans is to always look forward...and always with great hope and optimism...

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1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY

New life for city treasure

Vacaville's 81-year-old Town Hall is starting to take on the blush of youth.

Renovation, begun last month, will restore some of the building's history as Vacaville's all-in-one fire station, police department, jail, court and council chamber.

The concrete building is being spruced up to make it a star attraction in the downtown.

The building's original redwood window frames are being tenderly restored and painted and the copper window springs are being put back in place.

"The wood is still in good shape," said Pete Mattson, city public works inspector who is overseeing the day-to-day work.

The building's ceiling, once damaged by fire, was first on the agenda for replacement. Old material was torn out, and the top of the walls are being rebuilt to curve into the ceiling as originally designed.

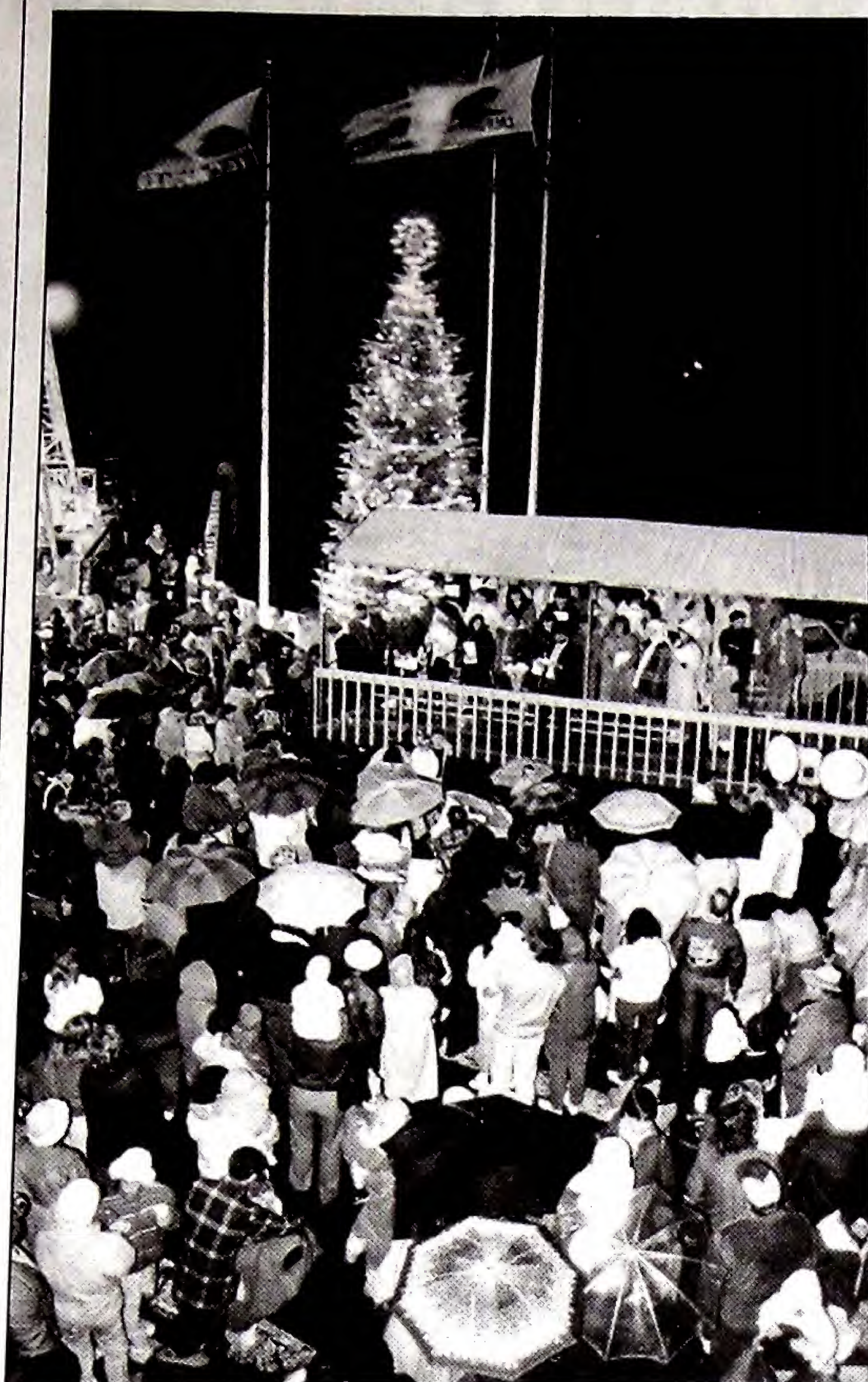
The building's exterior needs extensive attention. The eight concrete pillars holding the hollow bell tower must be torn out. A fiberglass mold has been designed and new columns will be poured.

The \$105,500 budget for the renovation is being paid with \$60,000 in state bond act funds and \$45,500 from the city's general fund.

By Cynthia Roberts,
Staff Writer

The Reporter, April 5, 1987

Wet winter wonderland



Rain didn't scare away those who gathered in 1987 for the Merriment on Main celebration. The annual event started in the 1980s with the lighting of the Christmas tree, and in the early years there was room to open umbrellas. Not any longer, as thousands crowd downtown for the festivities. The event has evolved into an evening-long party that includes the arrival of Santa Claus, music, carriage rides, hot cocoa, candy canes, community booths and costumed characters. This year, Merriment on Main will be Nov. 30.

Reporter file photos

Panel opposes local property for new collider

A panel of scientists excluded California from a list of technically superior sites for the Superconducting Super Collider, but supporters insist the state's hopes are not smashed.

Opponents, too, are not convinced the fight is over.

The "short list" of the National Academy of Science and the National Academy of Engineering released Tuesday names Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Tennessee, New York, Illinois, Michigan and North Carolina as the technically best locations for the world's largest atom smasher.

The list will be forwarded to the federal Department of Energy, which is expected to release its own list of sites best qualified for the \$4.4 billion collider next month.

Additional states could be added then, a fact supporters say buttresses California's hope to land the collider. Two California sites have been proposed for the project, one northeast of Vacaville and another near Stockton.

Gov. George Deukmejian has demanded to know why California was left off the list.

University of California vice president Bill Baker, chairman of a panel of experts which selected the state's proposed location for the collider, said he was "keenly disappointed" by California's failure to make the short list.

"It is puzzling that Califor-

nia would not be a finalist," Baker said, noting the state's leadership role in particle physics and the strengths of the two proposed sites.

Norman Repanich, member of the pro-collider group Super Collider for America, agreed the fight isn't over to attract the project — and an estimated 10,000 jobs associated with it — to Yolo and Solano counties. "As far as I'm concerned, it isn't over. They are not the final decision maker."

One farmer who is a key member in a group fighting attempts to bring the project to farm land in Solano and Yolo counties lauded the academics' decision, but isn't convinced the fight is over.

"I think the action supports what we've been saying all along," said Dixon grower James Campbell, who stands to lose property if the project is built. "California does not compare to the other states technically. That still doesn't mean California won't be included."

If the state is added at the last minute, Campbell said, "it will make you wonder what are the reasons behind that."

Earthquake danger has been a primary argument by opponents as to why the collider should not be built locally.

By Jeff DeLong, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 30, 1987

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Teamwork pays off with new hospital

City raises \$1 million for 50-bed facility

By Elizabeth Murtaugh
Special to The Reporter

Throughout the growth spurt that doubled Vacaville's population in the 1970s, few denied the need for a local hospital to serve the city's 40,000 residents.

But political bickering kept getting in the way.

Fairfield wanted to expand its Intercommunity Hospital, while Vacaville wanted to build its own medical facility.

The state, which had to approve both plans, wasn't inclined to allow either until the two communities began working together.

That cooperation started in the late 1970s, when doctors proclaimed Fairfield's 108-bed Intercommunity Hospital as Vacaville's hospital, too.

By March 1984, the two communities were working together as they sought state permission for a single plan that called for building a \$19.2 million, 50-bed hospital in Vacaville, then constructing a \$6.3 million addition to the Fairfield hospital, known as ICH then and now called NorthBay Medical Center.

The state approved the plan in June 1984.

ICH administrator Gary Passama was elated, but cautious. "This removes one of the obstacles," he told The Reporter at the time. "There are several more to go."

Architects had to draw final blueprints. The nonprofit hospital had to figure out a way to finance the project. And the city had to persuade the county's land-use authority to let it annex 25 acres near Nut Tree and Elmira roads.

One by one, the obstacles were overcome. Optimistic

planners hoped to open doors by early 1986, but it took longer than they expected.

The hospital was financed mostly through the sale of tax-free bonds, with ICH putting up its buildings and grounds as collateral. Still, Vacaville residents were asked to raise some of the money themselves.

During a four-month push in early 1985, the "Partners in Progress" campaign brought in more than \$1 million from a diverse cross-section of the community.

"This drive — the big people, small people, short people, professionals, blue collar workers, all their smiling faces

were there under one big umbrella," Tom McNunn of the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce told The Reporter later that year. "It was Vacaville, and the reward was us. It gave you a good feeling."

Many who joined in the community's resounding show of support came out for the groundbreaking on Aug. 28, 1985.

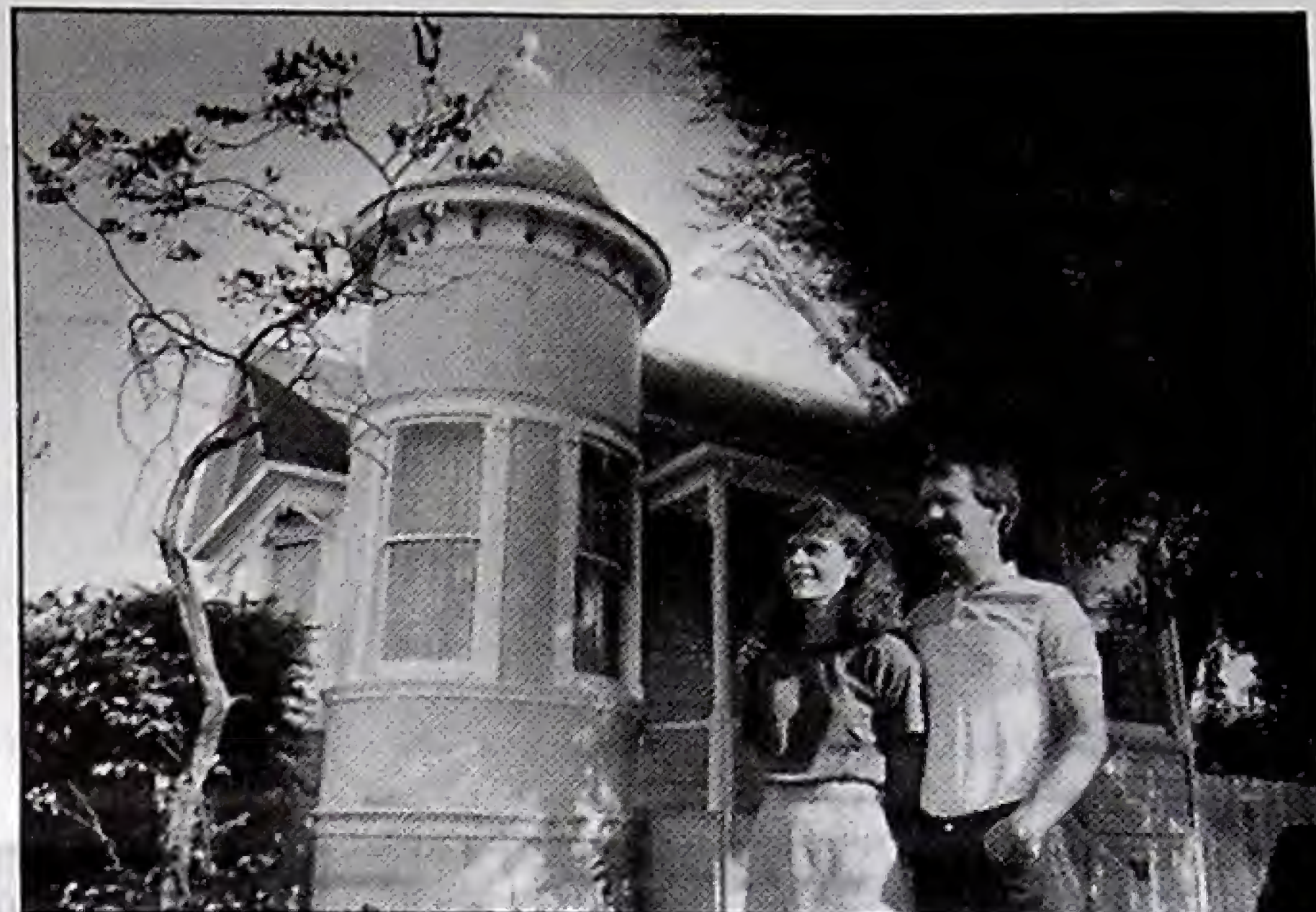
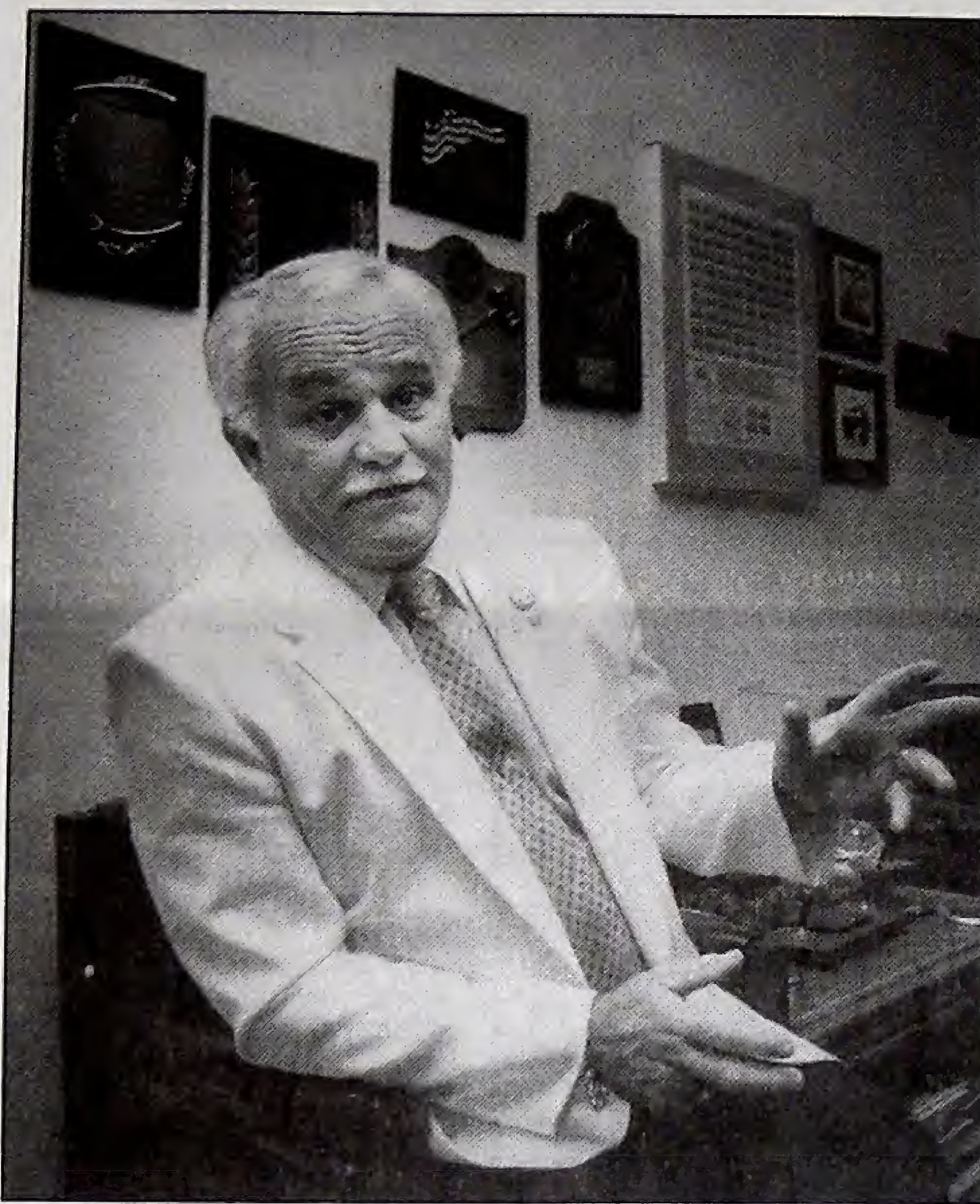
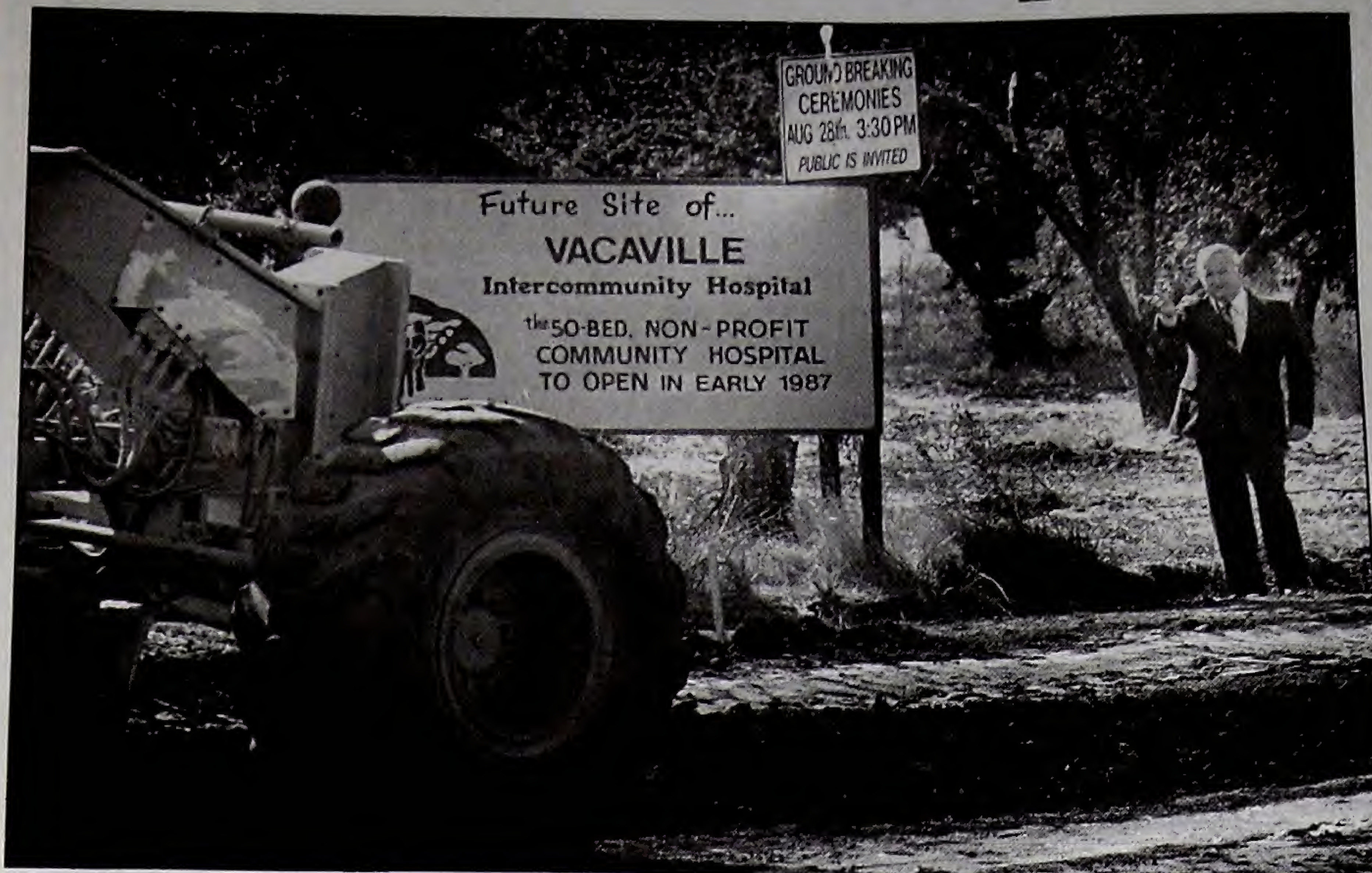
They returned two years later, when, on June 25, 1987, VacaValley Hospital was dedicated, ending Vacaville's dubious distinction as the only California city of its size without a full-service health-care facility.

When it opened, the 50,000 square-foot facility boasted an acute care, 24-hour emergency room; two surgery units; 50 hospital beds, including six for intensive-care patients and four in a high-security area to be used by California Medical Facility inmates; a clinical laboratory and radiology department; a pharmacy; and a rehabilitation department that offered physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Soon after, work began on the Intercommunity Hospital expansion, which enlarged its maternity department and added a five-bed intensive care nursery for newborns.

"This drive — the big people, small people, short people, professionals, blue collar workers, all their smiling faces were there under one big umbrella. ... It gave you a good feeling."

Tom McNunn



Reporter file photos

Once political issues were resolved, Vacaville started building a new hospital. At top, then-Mayor Bill Carroll shows where work was to start in August 1985. When the facility was completed two years later, it was named VacaValley Hospital. At left, "Mr. Vacaville" Tom McNunn, pictured in 1989 when he retired as executive director/manager of the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce, helped spearhead the hospital fund-raising drive. Above, Christine and Gary Zadnik are shown in a 1987 photo outside their Elizabeth Street home, which served as the community hospital from 1931 to 1945.

Canine patrol hits the street

Next Tuesday the streets of Vacaville will be going to the dog.

The dog in question is a 1 1/2-year-old German Shepherd named Asko, and he'll begin work as the Vacaville Police Department's first K-9 patrol dog at 7 p.m. Tuesday, along with handler Geno Davis.

Asko was one of two German Shepherds that were imported from Germany in March and cost \$1,500 apiece.

The other dog, a 4-year-old Shepherd named Jonny, suffered from a nervous disorder and could not complete training for the K-9 program, according to Lt. Howard Arnold, who's hoping to get a replacement dog in the near future.

Asko and Officer Davis recently completed 14 weeks of training at a K-9 law enforcement school in Contra Costa County. ...

The K-9 project has been strongly supported by the community over the past year, Arnold noted, with residents volunteering dogs and donating more than \$9,000 in cash to the program.

The Reporter, June 27, 1982



In 1985, three years after Vacaville's first canine started working, Chipka plays around with Officer Gary Anderson.

Reporter file photo

Travis celebrates new medical age

Construction begins today on the David Grant Medical Center, the \$206 million Travis Air Force Base hospital designed for the needs of the 21st century.

On Wednesday, civilian and military brass turned a symbolic first shovel to kick off the four-year job south of Air Base Parkway near Peabody Road.

"This is a day of particular celebration for the 73,000 people who call David Grant the hospital," Commander Col. Frederick W. Plugge told assembled guests.

They gathered under shade trees on the grazing land that will become the hospital.

"We're to the point," said Rep. Vic Fazio, D-Solano, "where it makes me want to stand up and cheer. I'm gonna savor this one for a long time."

Construction marks the end of a 15-year process to replace the first David Grant Medical Center, scattered on base among 22 buildings.

"We are here to commemorate the beginning of replacement of your aging dinosaur," said Lt.

Gen. Max B. Rallier, the Air Force's surgeon general.

When the 373-bed hospital opens in 1988, said Plugge, it will mean faster and more complete care for servicemen and retirees who are inadequately served by the old hospital.

"When you have only 40 percent of the space you should have, you have a lot of compromises," said Plugge. "When you're working out of a shoe box, you are courting disaster. It's not just a question of convenience."

Money for the medical center came through Congress the hard way, surviving a push to close a Bay Area military hospital, threats to accreditation and most recently a call for a new cost evaluation that would have delayed the project.

The \$5 million for the site preparation that begins today was secure last year, while the remaining \$201 million is on the president's desk, said Fazio, and certain of passage as part of the military construction program.

By Michael Winters, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Aug. 23, 1984

1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY



CMF housed prisoners with AIDS in a separate wing. The wing, formerly the Northern Reception Center, opened in the 1980s. Reporter file photos

Fear accompanies AIDS outbreak

State sends all prisoners with the virus to Vacaville

By Julie Davidow
Staff Writer

Much like the rest of the country, Vacaville awoke in the mid-1980s to the specter of a deadly and mysterious disease.

Unlike most communities of its size, however, Vacaville had in its back yard one of the groups most at-risk to contract AIDS.

In 1985, the California Medical Facility was designated to house all state prisoners who tested positive for acquired immune deficiency syndrome and AIDS-related conditions (ARC).

As the number of patients grew, tension and fear mounted on both sides of CMF's walls.

Inmates diagnosed with AIDS were segregated in a wing referred to as "L-1 death row." Although experts repeated the mantra that casual contact could not spread the disease, inmates refused to share library books or gym equipment with ill prisoners.

Afflicted inmates accused the prison of neglect, charging their segregated wing was often left filthy, that they received inadequate medical care and that their meals were cold.

The impulse to separate healthy and sick people was no less powerful outside the prison.

Dr. William T. O'Connor, a physician with the Vacaville

Community Clinic, drew national headlines and criticism for his beliefs that AIDS could be spread by mosquitoes and casual contact, his recommendation that people shun publicly donated blood, and his call for AIDS patients to be quarantined.

In 1985, Vacaville became the first school district in Solano County — and one of the first in California — to bar children with AIDS from attending public schools.

"Our district felt we could not just bury our heads in the sand and hope it doesn't happen," said school board member Dottie O'Hara, who now says she regrets the panel's decision.

With the numbers of infected people growing, some Vacaville residents worried that boundaries between prisoners and the free could break down.

In 1984, one man wrote to the Vacaville City Council, asking it to reject a proposal to build a second prison on CMF grounds.

The combination of AIDS at CMF and the disposal of hospital waste in the CMF sewer system has the "capacity of destroying the health and welfare of Vacaville's citizens," he claimed.

By the end of the decade, more than 150 inmates with AIDS crowded two wings at CMF. Into the 1990s, the prison developed a hospice where AIDS patients nearing the end of their lives could die with as little outside stress as possible.

Supes: No Solano in prison's name

What's in a name? Apparently a great deal when it comes to Vacaville's new 2,400-cell prison adjacent to the California Medical Facility.

The new \$139 million prison temporarily has been tagged "New Solano" while a permanent moniker is pondered by prison authorities and the Vacaville City Council.

But if county supervisors have their way, any reference to "Solano" will be erased. There must be no hint of a county affiliation when the facility is officially titled, supervisors argued.

Prodged by Supervisor Richard Brann, board members directed county staff to draft letters to Vacaville City Council members and prison officials asking that "Solano" not be used for the new prison.

Brann said because it is a state institution, it should not be given a local name.

Vacaville City Manager John Thompson said he could not blame the supervisors for not

wishing to saddle the county with a "negative connotation" some might associate with the prison.

"We didn't want the name Vacaville on there," he said. "I can see why the county doesn't want its name on the prison."

Helen Krogh, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Corrections, said the new facility will be termed CMF South unless another name is offered.

A group of 150 inmates spent their first night Monday in the new prison after being moved from CMF late Monday afternoon. There were no reported problems.

Krogh said another 75 inmates are scheduled to be relocated to the new prison next week. Inmates occupy two cell-block buildings that are surrounded by a perimeter fence. One guard tower is occupied while officers patrol outside the fence.

By Karen Reed, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Aug. 22, 1984

Judge won't halt inmate's dialysis

Despite his desire to be allowed to die, Vacaville state prison doctors must keep inmate Herman Carter alive, a Superior Court judge ruled in Fairfield.

"Under no circumstances could prison doctors stand by and permit an inmate to die from a treatable disease," wrote Judge Ellis R. Randall in upholding the state attorney general's request for judicial authority to forcibly continue kidney dialysis for the 31-year-old convicted burglar.

Carter suffers from kidney failure, hypertension and heart disease and has been undergoing the life-prolonging dialysis treatment for more than three years. He was transferred to the California Medical Facility in August and joined 15 other inmates undergoing the arti-

cial blood purification process.

Represented by Vacaville attorney Brad Nelson, Carter appeared before Judge Randall on Dec. 13 and said he was fully aware of the consequences of refusing more dialysis and simply wanted to be left alone.

Concerned about the ethical and legal implications of allowing an inmate to die, CMF doctors asked state attorneys to take to provide them with the authority to treat Carter.

Carter, like other patients in the CMF dialysis unit, previously refused treatment, but later relented, according to testimony during the Dec. 13 hearing. He would not be expected to survive more than three weeks without the tri-weekly dialysis.

By Jon Lewis, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 21, 1984

Woman gets a top CMF job

She may be the first woman to ever hold a top level administrative post at Vacaville's state prison for men, but Ruth Blueitt doesn't seem to feel any pressure or pay much attention to it.

This week she took over command of the Northern Reception Center at the prison. Her staff of correctional officers is mostly men, all of the inmates are men, but the captain in charge is a woman.

"I've been the first in a whole

string of things and I'm just not interested in being first anymore," she told The Reporter matter-of-factly.

She noted the Department of Corrections has made some strides in giving women and minorities the chance to work their way up to the top. She is the second black to be appointed to an associate superintendent post at the California Medical Facility.

The Reporter, Jan. 11, 1980

Overcrowding continues despite additional cells

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

By the time the California Medical Facility, home to the controversial and notorious, celebrated its 25th birthday in 1980, some 135,000 inmates had served time there.

By the end of the decade, the Vacaville facility would undergo an expansion to make room for even more inmates, despite a community movement to halt construction.

In early 1984, the Coalition Opposing Prison Expansion led to rally public support to stop the state from building a 2,400-bed minimum- and medium-security prison adjacent to CMF.

In addition to concern about the effect additional prison construction would have on local real estate values, citizens were

troubled about overcrowding at the facility — and for good reason. While CMF had been built to house 2,400 inmates, it had a population of 3,400 by 1984. Correctional officials conceded in a February 1984 Reporter article that, because of the enormous demand for space, even the new facility was expected to exceed its capacity.

Ultimately, opposition efforts were in vain.

The first phase of the new facility — then called CMF-South and known today as California State Prison, Solano — was completed by August 1984. The entire complex was open by February 1985.

By December 1986, the two prisons' combined inmate population stood at more than 8,300, distinguishing the facility as the nation's largest prison.

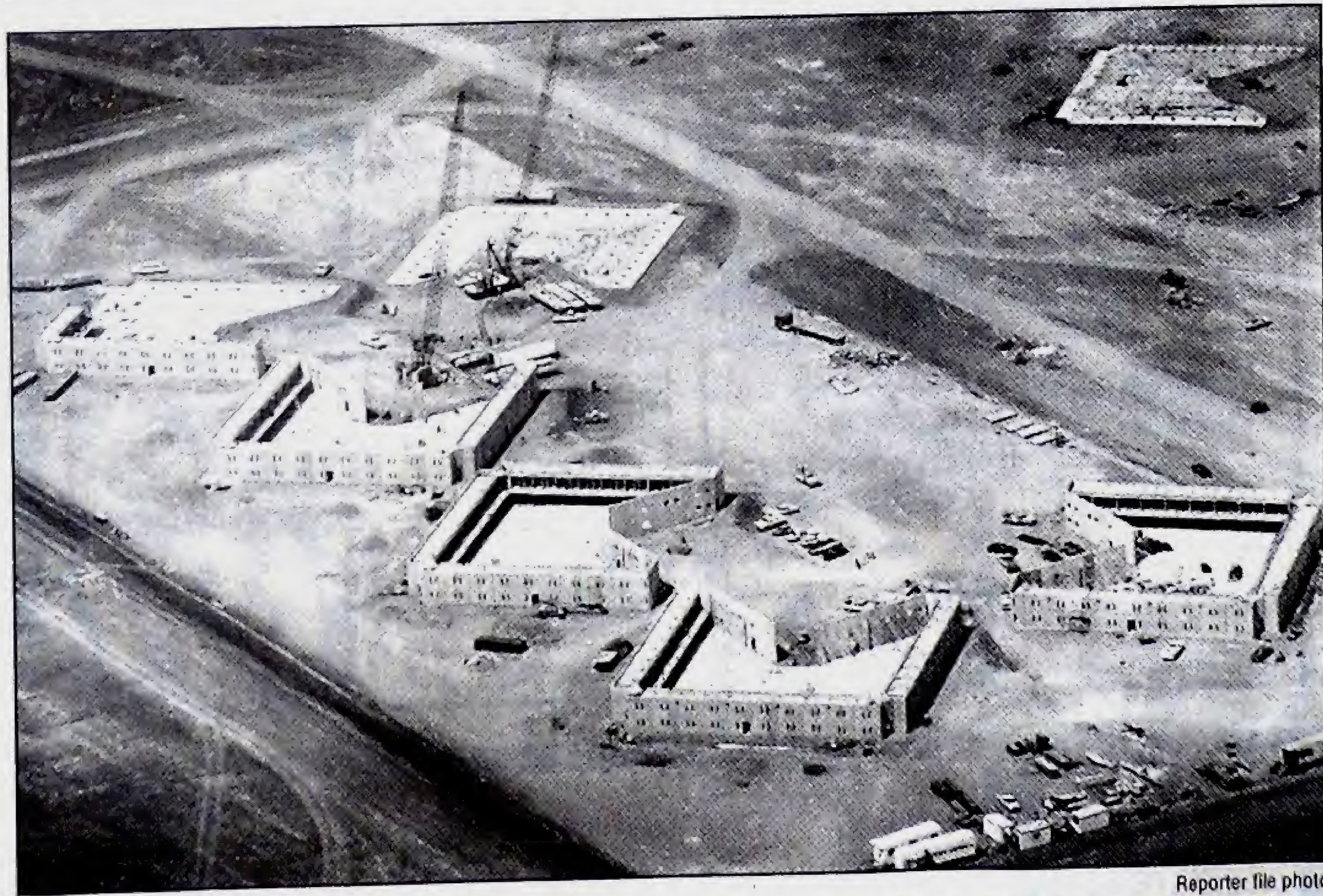
Severe overcrowding also

plagued county jails in the 1980s. The three jails in Fairfield and Vallejo had a capacity for 470 inmates, but at times nearly 600 inmates were incarcerated in them.

Officials resorted to double-celling and implemented an early release program for minimum-security inmates who indicated a willingness to do public service. The Clay Bank Road facility, built in 1980, added beds, but it too remained overcrowded.

Inmates, angry about the conditions, sued the county. Agreeing that inmates shouldn't have to sleep on the floors, judges began ordering early releases.

By the mid-1980s, a \$45 million jail and justice center was being planned for downtown Fairfield, but it would take up to four years before the facility would be ready to accept



California State Prison, Solano, shown under construction in May 1984, was completed in 1985. Reporter file photo

inmates. When construction began, residents were warned that unless as many as 100 jail workers, including 60 correctional officers, were hired and trained well before the new facility was completed, it

couldn't open at all. County supervisors, facing severe budget constraints, grappled with how to pay for the new hires.

"We're just not in a very good situation," Sheriff Albert Car-doza told the Reporter in May

1985. "It's a total community problem. People want stiffer sentences and longer punishment for people who commit crimes ... but it's hard to get people excited about building more jails."

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Vacan survives Beirut bombing

Marine Staff Sgt. George Zustak took time out during the calm at Beirut airport to pen a letter home to Vacaville, to his mother and father.

"The cease-fire is still in effect so it's been fairly quiet," the combat communications specialist wrote in a letter dated Oct. 10. "No artillery fire anyway. Some small arms fire and an occasional sniper outside the perimeter. Guess that doesn't count."

Zustak, 28, was one of the lucky ones. Tucked away in the fortified communication section of the Marine headquarters, he survived a blast that killed more than 200 fellow leathernecks early Sunday morning.

"I fear that my son died," said his mother, Kazuko Zustak. "All day Sunday I hear more and more Marines die. I go to church and pray, and the tears come."

On Sunday afternoon, she received the call that she had prayed for. Her daughter-in-law told that George Zustak was safe and alive.

He was sent to Lebanon three months ago from his home station in Hawaii, where his wife, Ann, and two daughters live.

A 1973 graduate of Vacaville High School, George Zustak has made a career for himself in the military. One week out of high school, he joined the Marine Corps. His family has lived in Vacaville since 1961 when George's father, John, retired from the Air Force after his last assignment at Travis Air Force Base.

Despite the tragedy in Lebanon, John Zustak, who spent eight years in the Army and 12

years in the Air Force, said he is not worried about his son remaining in Beirut.

"What's the good in worrying?" he asked. "He's a soldier, and it's not a soldier's job to philosophize. He does what he's told and takes his chances alongside the rest of them."

By Karen Reed, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Oct. 26, 1983

Blast kills Vaca-based Marine

James Glenn Yarber was fighting a different war when he lived in Vacaville in the late 1960s and early 70s — it was Vietnam, not Lebanon.

The career soldier served three tours in Vietnam. He did not survive three months in Beirut.

Only two years away from retirement, Yarber, 37, perished along with 200 other military personnel when a suicide attack was carried out by the driver of an explosive-laden truck that nearly leveled the Marine barracks in Beirut.

Yarber was the first Californian reported killed in Beirut. A native of Lost Corner, Ark., Yarber and his former wife, Jennifer, lived on Hemlock Street in Vacaville for about four years and had two children. When he re-enlisted in the Army in 1969, he made Vacaville his home residence, but he served abroad.

The Reporter, Oct. 26, 1983

"I've got 6,000 hours flying time in those birds (C-130s) and I've never seen anything like this."

Lt. Col. John Minkler,
Travis Air Force Base airport manager



Reporter file photo

The wreckage of a Southern Air Transport plane was scattered across an area the size of a football field after a crash at Travis.

Crew of five dies in crash at Travis

An air safety investigator retrieved flight recording instruments Thursday night after searching the wreckage of the Lockheed L-382 that crashed Wednesday at Travis Air Force Base.

Federal investigators believe the cargo plane touched down briefly on a base runway before becoming airborne again, swerving out of control and exploding in an open field, killing all five aboard.

Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board officials arrived on the scene Thursday afternoon to sort through the rubble located just off base. They were joined by officials from Southern Air, Lockheed, which manufactured the aircraft, and Allison, which built the engines.

John B. Drake, an air safety investigator with the NTSB, located the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder late

Thursday night.

The devices will be shipped to Washington, D.C., for analysis. Officials said it would take at least five days before results are available.

"It takes a while to refine it. A technician looks at it under a microscope and he interprets the scratches. And that tells you what the airplane was doing. ... It's a tedious process."

Travis airport manager Lt. Col. John Minkler said control tower staff saw the Southern Air Transport plane, the civilian equivalent of the Air Force C-130, make what looked to be a routine landing at 5:35 p.m. when the crash occurred.

Following a detailed inspection of the runway, Minkler said he cannot understand why the Southern Air Transport aircraft went airborne again just before the crash.

"I've got 6,000 hours flying time in those birds (C-130s) and I've never seen anything like this," said Minkler.

A witness, Anita Mitchell of Vacaville, who reportedly was several miles from the crash site, offered a conflicting account.

She said she saw "the tip of the left wing hit the ground and it exploded in a fireball."

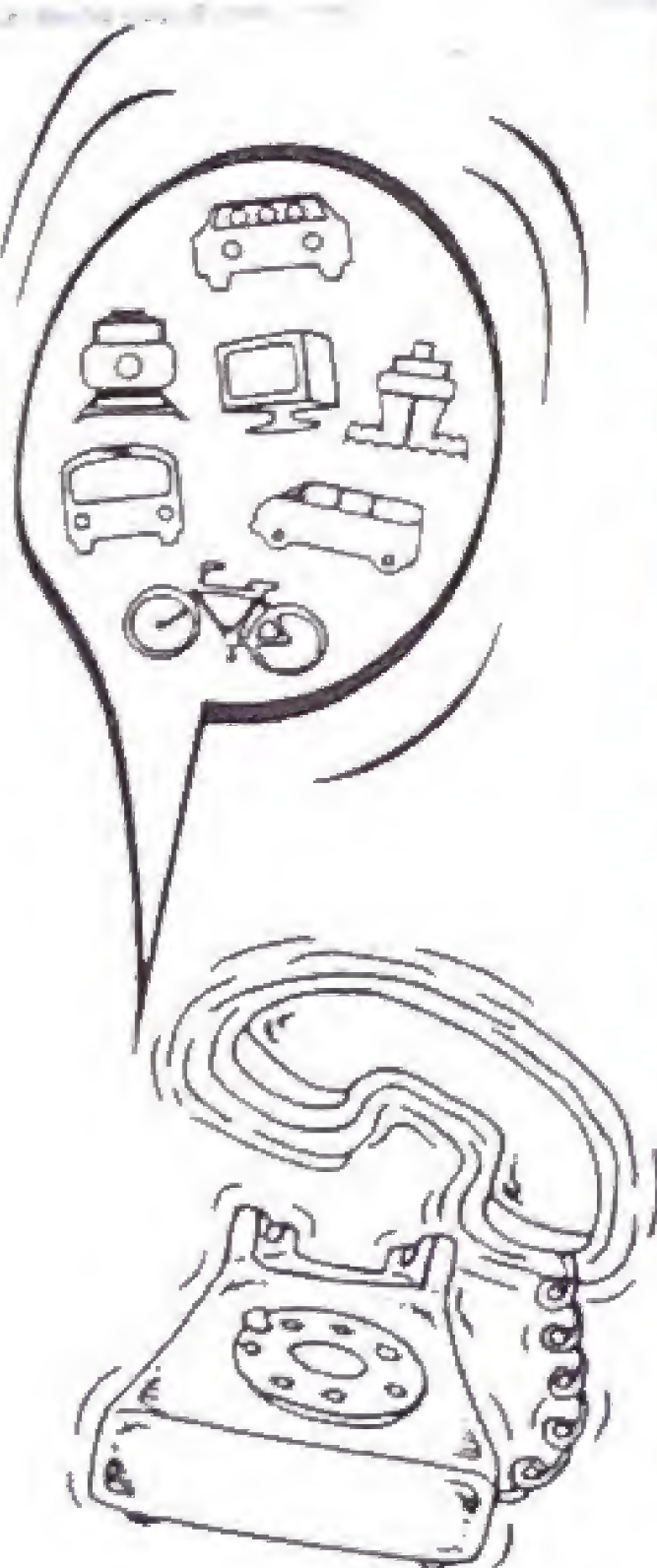
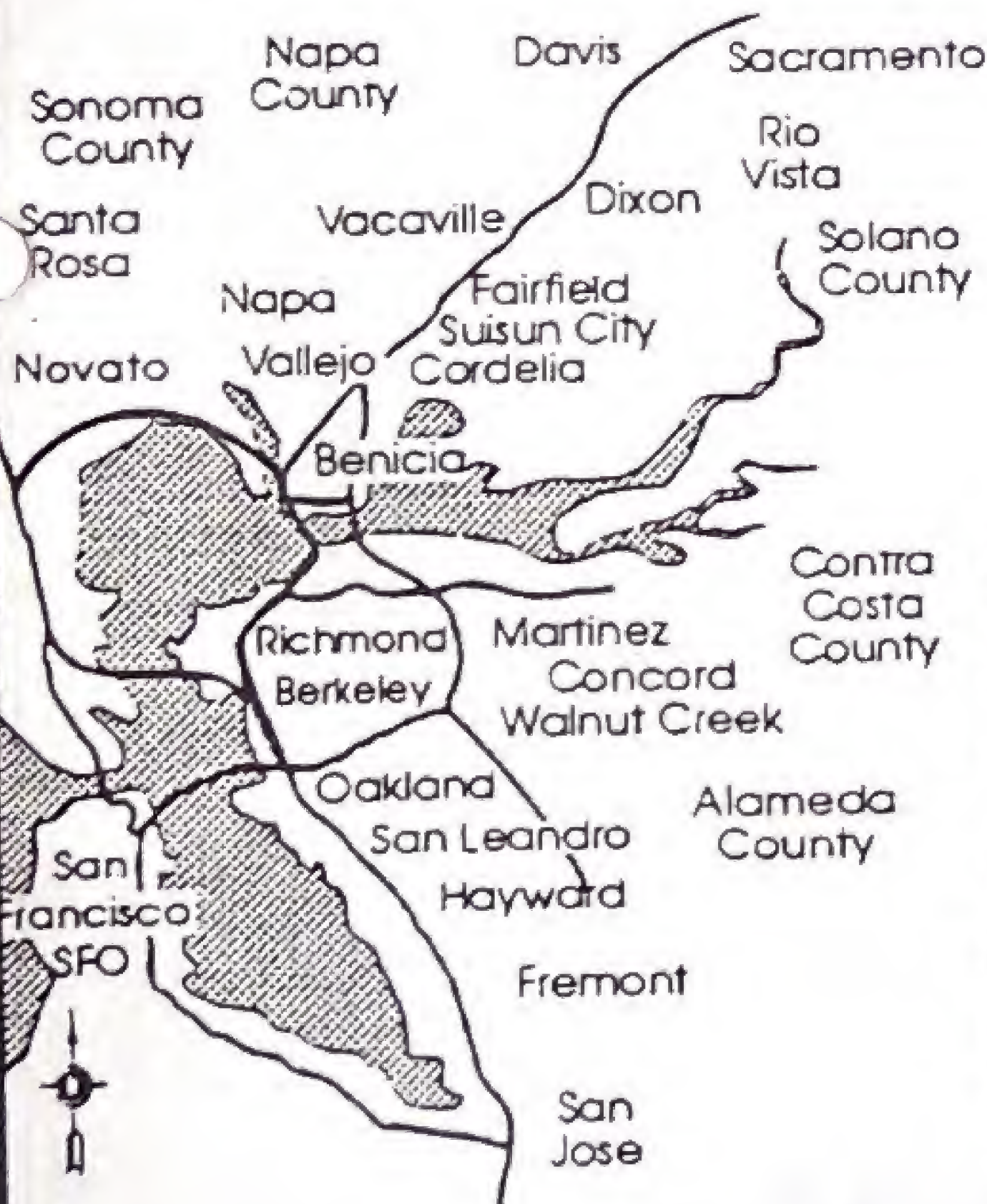
Travis security police opened Perimeter Road Thursday afternoon, offering curious onlookers a chance to see the scattered wreckage, which occupies an area the size of a football field.

The tail section, emblazoned with the company's stylized S logo, was the only portion of the four-engine, turbo-prop aircraft intact.

By Jim Witty, Staff Writer
The Reporter, April 10, 1987

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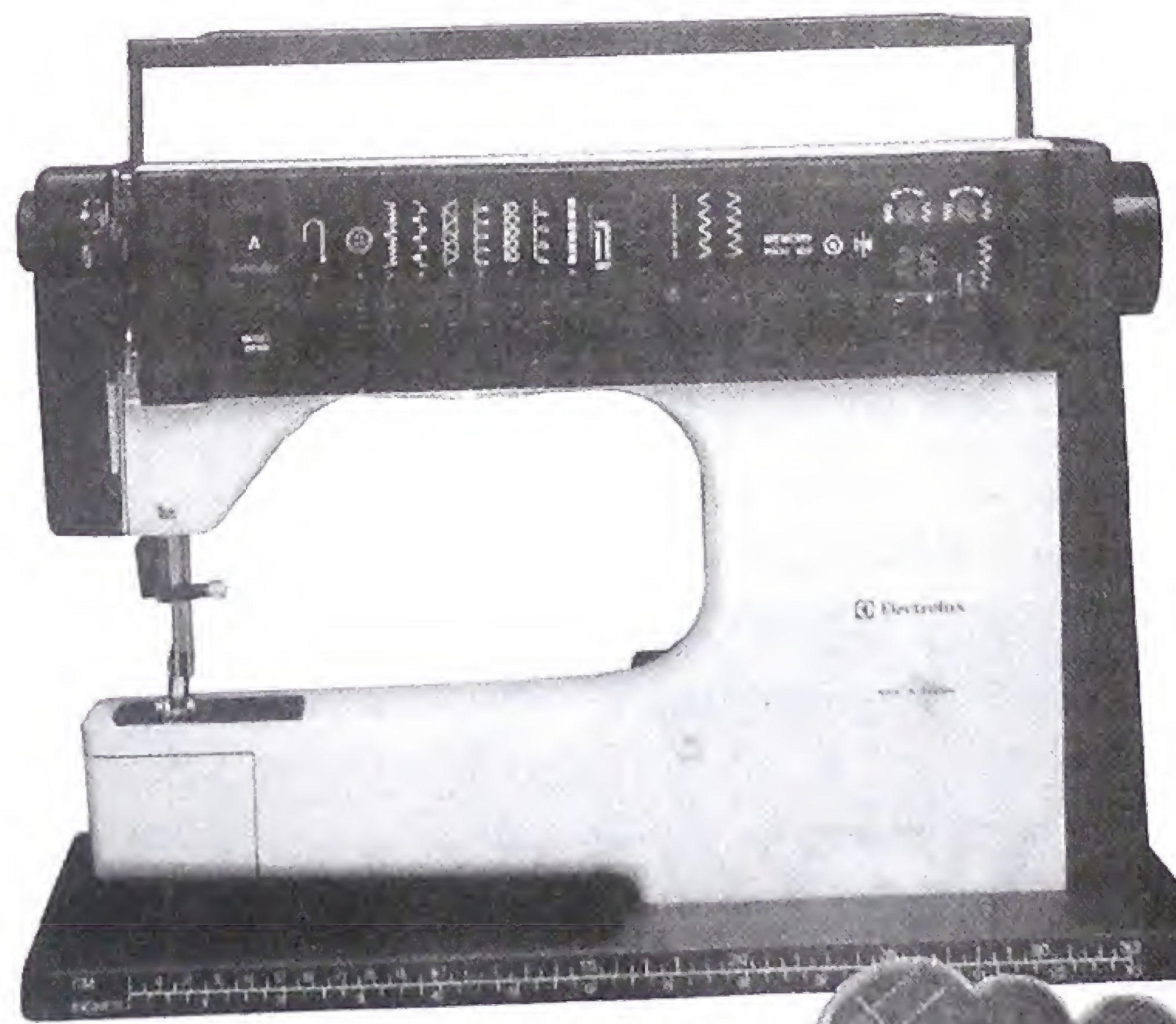
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1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY

Big dreams and donations launch local museum

Flatiron collection sparks drive to preserve Vaca history

By Teresa Willis
Special to The Reporter

What started in 1976 as an attempt to keep an historic collection in Vacaville culminated in 1983 with the opening of the Vacaville Museum.

It was John McBride's idea to try to keep Art Dietz's collection of flatirons — tools used to press clothes in the days before electricity — in Vacaville.

A Texas investor had offered \$2,500 for the 200 irons, and Dietz was ready to sell. He was willing to sell them to the city instead, but he had one condition: The irons had to have a permanent home.

McBride, the city's recreation director, turned for help to his good friend Eleanor Nelson, a feisty longtime resident and teacher who had a penchant for getting things done.

The two came up with a fund-raising idea that tied into the country's bicentennial celebration. Residents were asked to "Buy an Iron" for \$17.76 and donate it to the city as a bicentennial gift.

Once the irons were purchased, Nelson began looking for a place to keep them. The City Council declined to build a museum itself but indicated it might provide some financial support if Nelson got one going.

As private donations began coming in — including an anonymous \$25,000 gift — Nelson and McBride started looking for a location. The old Carnegie

Library and the historic Town Hall were ruled out because of climate-control problems and security concerns.

Eventually, Eva Buck, widow of Congressman Frank H. Buck II, caught wind of the museum idea and donated a lot on Buck Avenue, next to her mansion.

Three modular buildings were purchased and moved onto the site. Buck, according to newspaper accounts at the time, took one look at them and declared, "Absolutely not." She promptly donated another million dollars to construct a permanent building. The trailers eventually became part of the Vacaville Art Gallery.

Architect Gordon Boles of Vacaville was hired to design the museum, while Spangler Construction Co. of Sacramento won the bid to build it. Ground was broken in 1981.

McBride, who served as a consultant and visited the construction site every day, was chosen president of the museum's first board of directors. When his term ended, he passed the gavel to Nelson.

Other early board members included Vacaville natives Robert Power, who owned the Nut Tree; Barbara Martell Comfort; Arlene King Pillsbury, whose father was police chief in the 1950s; pioneer descendant Judge Walt Weir; and then-City Councilman (and now Mayor) David Fleming. With determined volunteers such as Bert



By 1986, the Vacaville Museum hosted regular fund-raisers, such as this fashion show in the courtyard. The event raised \$2,300 and more than 200 people attended.

Reporter file photos

Hughes, Bob Allen, Jane LoPinto and Carroll Mundy, the board worked diligently to ensure the museum would have an interesting, yet accurate description of life from the yesteryear.

In May 1983, the brick, two-story museum was opened for the community to see its landscaped courtyard, climate-and-temperature controlled interior and separate collections and gallery areas.

The opening gala featured a barbershop quartet, bluegrass and banjo music, Shriner clowns, square dancing, Japanese folk dancing, a Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Vacaville performance and a Chinese Lion Ceremony. Spinners, wood carvers and volunteers dressed

in period costumes were also on hand, setting the tone the museum would follow into the next decade.

Gail Campbell, the museum's first director, and her staff premiered the historical center with "Rivers, Railroads and Rolling Hills," an exhibit focusing on the county's development from 1875 to 1915.

Ruth Begell, who started as a volunteer researcher for the first exhibit, took over as director when Campbell moved to Monterey in 1985. Among Begell's first tasks was to ensure the museum's financial stability.

Eva Buck had donated generously for operating costs, yet by

the mid-1980s, the museum was in danger of running out of funds. With guidance from board member Eldon Ray, a banker, Begell placed \$1.6 million of the Buck donation into an endowment that provides support to this day. She also began the ongoing task of seeking grants and private donations.

Meanwhile, Museum Guild volunteers launched what have become annual community events, such as the home and garden tour fund-raiser and the Musical Americana courtyard concert, now held on Independence Day.

The flatiron collection was given a permanent display case, but from the start the museum

changed its main exhibit twice a year. Early topics included the plight of Japanese residents during World War II, fruit labels, Native American traditions, Victorian dining, folk art and women in Solano County.

Two exhibits — one on botanist Willis Jepson, the other on the Berryessa Valley before it became Lake Berryessa — have been leased to other California museums.

"They do what I believe museums should do, which is to connect with the community," Begell said of the two exhibits. "They give voice to populations or stories that may not have been known in the community otherwise."

A PART OF HISTORY

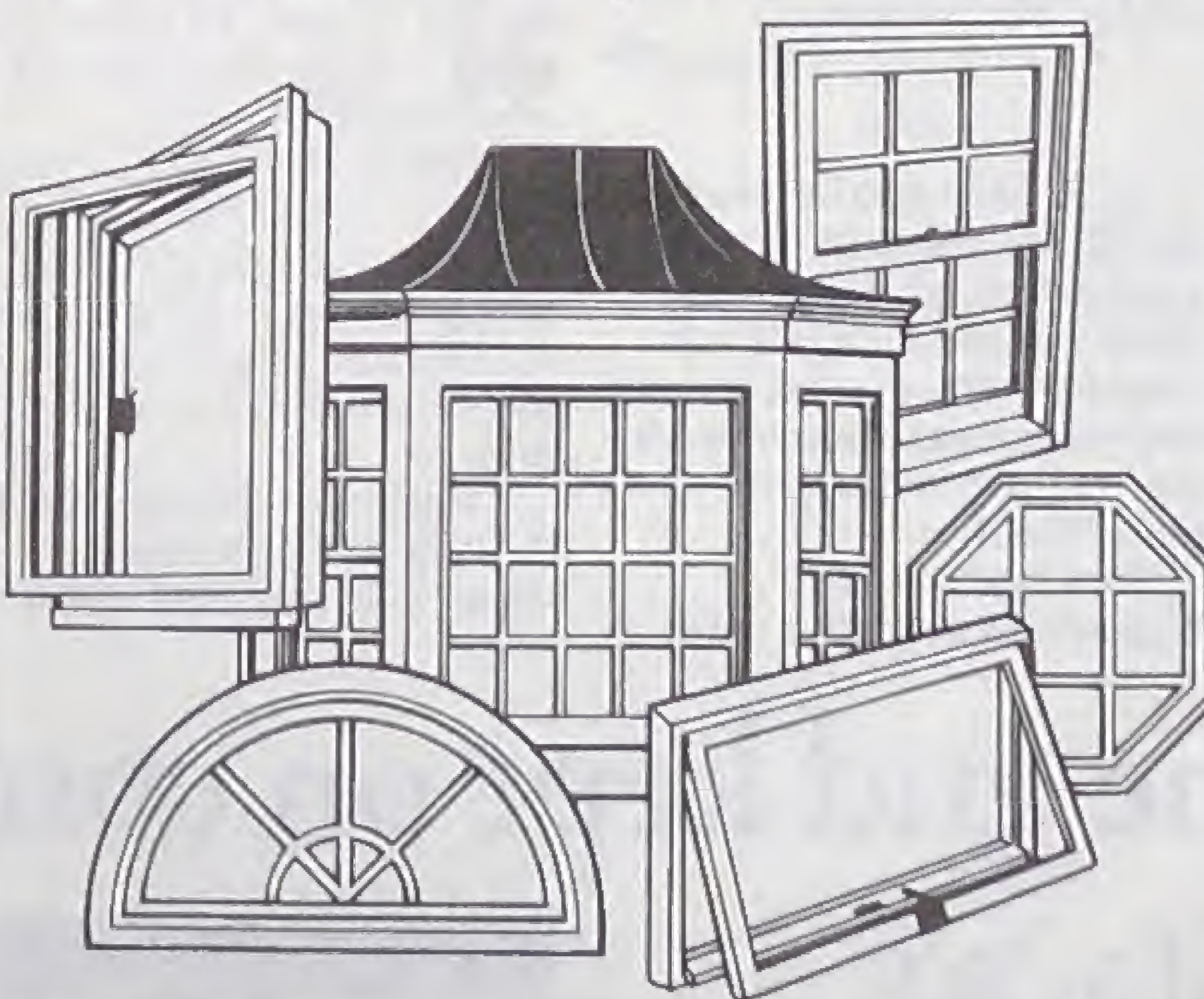
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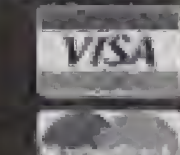
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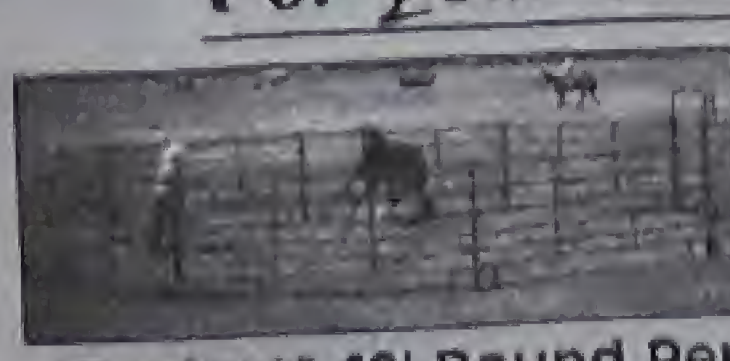


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Loma Prieta shakes, rattles and rolls state

Killer earthquake felt here; Vacans lend aid

The following are short glimpses of the coverage by The Reporter in the days and weeks following the Loma Prieta earthquake of Oct. 17, 1989.

Cogan left her Dodge Challenger on the bridge and the two women walked back to San Francisco.

Oct. 18, 1989

With a sudden lurch and a series of dizzying rolls, Solano County reeled briefly Tuesday afternoon as a killer, 6.9 earthquake rocked the Bay Area, claiming more than 250 lives, damaging bridges and snarling commuter traffic from San Francisco to Santa Cruz. ...

Emergency services in Solano County reported a flood of phone calls but no serious damage to buildings or highways.

Oct. 18, 1989

It was felt here, too.

People in Vacaville, Fairfield and Dixon called the earthquake that shook the Bay Area "scary," "wild" and "like walking on Jell-O."

When the shaker struck shortly after 5 p.m., a packed house was waiting to watch the World Series at Merchant & Main Grill and Bar in Vacaville.

"A few were a little nervous," said general manager Bill McMaster. ...

Anne Lamorge, who lives on Camelia Way, said she heard a wood plank in her living room ceiling crack during the quake. After seeing a wall clock swinging, she moved for cover.

"It seemed like it went on forever," Lamorge said. "I stood in the doorway with my dog."

She later found the 7-inch crack in the ceiling board.

Oct. 18, 1989

Karen Cogan of Vacaville and Pauline Mano of Davis were stopped in traffic on the Bay Bridge after Tuesday's earthquake when they heard on the car radio that part of the span's upper deck had collapsed.

"We heard that, we looked at each other and said 'We're out of here,'" said Cogan.

Inspection was the catchword of the day in Solano County Wednesday as people took stock of damage caused by Tuesday's deadly earthquake — damage to buildings, highways, homes and their nerves.

Vacaville's Peabody Road overpass suffered minor, "cosmetic" damage, according to Phil Littlejohn, Caltrans maintenance supervisor.

Small chunks of concrete were missing from parts of the structure, which spans Interstate 80, he said. An engineer said "surface repairs" can be made to repair the damage. ...

There was minimal damage, including some minor cracks, at California Medical Facility South and no damage at the main facility, (acting public information officer Jesse) Garcia said. ...

Oct. 19, 1988

With only minor, brief disruptions in local service, Solano County utility crews headed to quake-ravaged San Francisco to help victims there.

Local Pacific Gas & Electric Co. workers in a 22-vehicle caravan traveled into the hardest-hit Bay Area neighborhoods. ...

About 30 local PG&E service and construction workers gathered at the Peabody Road facility Wednesday morning and headed for San Francisco to help crews there try to restore gas and electric service.

Oct. 19, 1989

A Vacaville man involved in the intense search for survivors under the rubble of Interstate 880 in Oakland called his wife Saturday with news that brought tears to the eyes of rescue workers — a survivor had been pulled out alive.

Buck Helm, 57, of Weaverville was pulled out of



California Highway Patrol Officer Gary Cooper surveys the damage on the Cypress structure of Interstate 880 in Oakland.

the wreckage Saturday morning.

Alfred Anderson has been working at the I-880 Cypress Structure since Wednesday.

"He called me this morning to tell me they found that man early this morning," said his wife Pat. "He and all those men had tears in their eyes. They kept bringing out bodies and many cars were six to eight inches tall." ...

Oct. 22, 1989

A Vacaville man who pulled a survivor from a wrecked car poking through the Bay Bridge minutes after the Oct. 17 killer quake said the job he did was nothing special.

"Oh yeah, it was scary," said Gary Williamson, a Caltrans equipment operator dispatched onto the bridge from Oakland as others fought to get off.

Millions of Americans nationwide were mesmerized by an amateur photographer's film footage of the car being driven full speed into the collapsed section of the bridge's upper deck. ...

"When we went out to check it out, no one knew that the bridge fell," said Williamson. ...

"We got the two trucks up on top, I put a rope around me, and lowered a guy in."

Relying on improvisation, he worked with a truck driver he did not know to attach a line to the car.

As the trucker attached a chain to the car, Williamson could see its front end pushing into the lower deck, with the San Francisco Bay visible below.

"It's a miracle it didn't go through," he said. ...

Oct. 24, 1989

Six Vacaville building inspectors and a city engineer learned earthquake lessons last weekend that couldn't be gleaned from textbooks.

The inspectors and an engineer formed a contingent from Vacaville that went down to San Francisco Saturday and Sunday to inspect damaged or devastated buildings.

The city workers, who put in 120 hours, said they were uniformly impressed with the attitude of Bay Area residents as they went from building to building, putting either green, yellow or red tags on the struc-



A police officer gazes up at the collapsed Cypress structure damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake.

tures. "There was a real spirit of camaraderie," said building official Bill Turgeon.

Oct. 26, 1989

Money donated to the Solano County Chapter of the American Red Cross is already hard at work supplying earthquake victims with food and clothing, while bolstering devastated economies.

Solano County businesses and residents had donated more than \$48,000 toward the relief effort by Monday. ...

Pietro's Pizza No. 2 across from City Hall on Merchant Street has set up a table and box so people can make donations. ...

The First Baptist Church in Vacaville will continue to accept donations of blankets and canned food to send to Watsonville earthquake victims.

Oct. 26, 1989

Rains came and kept on coming and coming

Lessons learned in '80s help flood control now

Winter in Vacaville means rain — sometimes lots of it.

If large storms don't do as much damage nowadays, it is in great part because of flood control measures taken by residents who got tired of cleaning up damage in the 1980s.

The first of the decade's big storms came in 1982, when a massive January rain caused more than \$1 million in damage all over Solano County.

Vacaville fared "pretty well," officials at the time told The Reporter, for several reasons: The storm came late in the season, after drains had been cleared; the worst of it came during the day, so workers could see where the problems were; drains installed near Creekside and the Vaca-Alamo subdivisions diverted runoff. Still, some streets and outlying roads were flooded.

In February and March 1983, a barrage of storms carried on winds of up to 50 mph swept into the area's hills and valleys.

In Gibson Canyon, slabs waiting houses in the exclusive Serenity Hills development were washed away or buried by mudslides. The foundation of one already built home was in danger of giving way.

A 300-foot electrical tower in the area began to sink, and PG&E officials feared it would topple. Solano Irrigation District water lines were broken in the sliding hills.

Water was nearly 7 feet above the glory hole at Lake Berryessa, and as it rushed through the spillway tube, it washed away parts of a road to the base of the dam, stranding dozens of workers' cars.

The storm of '86 was worse yet. For nine days it rained, dumping more than 13 inches of water on the area. Countywide, damage to crops and homes was estimated at more than \$20 million. And Solano County wasn't alone: Thousands of homes and hundreds of businesses throughout Northern California had been damaged or destroyed. State damage estimates topped \$300 million.

The storm was summarized in an eight-page special section published by The Reporter weeks after the water subsided:

"As the Presidents' Day weekend approached, business people prepared for the annual sales bonanza, schoolchildren readied for a three-day holiday away from schoolbooks, and winter sports enthusiasts licked



Water rises to the windows of a car near Beelard and Mathews drives and to the waist of city workers during 1985 flooding.

their lips at the thought of good skiing.

"And then the rains came.

"And the rains kept coming.

"At first there was a carnival-like atmosphere as children took to rafts and canoes and fun-seekers cruised streets in four-wheel drive vehicles. The situation, however, would become all too serious soon enough. Roads closed, houses and yards went under water and the damage toll

mounted."

The newspaper gave a more detailed account in the midst of the storm.

As the Feb. 19, 1986, Reporter story put it:

"Vacaville city crews continued to work into the night Tuesday, delivering sandbags and keeping a close watch on swollen creeks and sliding hillsides. ... Wykoff Hill dwellers

were in a tenuous situation Tuesday night as sections of the hillside above Buck Avenue began slipping. City crews covered part of the area with tarps in hopes of preventing further erosion."

Alamo Creek was blamed for causing water damage to as many as 85 homes in two south Vacaville subdivisions, Southwood and The Sycamores. Swollen by 4.4 inches of rain

that came in one day, the creek became backed up at the Peabody Road bridge.

"As a result, the water began to spread across Peabody Road to the east and rise high enough to flood homes," City Manager John Thompson was quoted as telling The Reporter. "There simply isn't any storm drainage system this side of Venice to handle that much water."

— By Reporter staff



About 35,000 acres burned in September 1988 in a fire that started in Miller Canyon and became known as the Mount Vaca fire. Reporter file photo

Roman candle lights firestorm in Vaca fields

The last remnants of Saturday's devastating Fourth of July blaze off Bucktown Lane are still smoldering, a grim and smoky reminder of the firestorm that ripped across 650 acres northwest of Vacaville, destroying four homes and injuring four firefighters.

According to Vacaville Fire Marshal Bob Powell, property loss is estimated at \$700,000 to \$1 million, and the firestorm blaze is probably the worst experienced in the Vacaville area since 1965, when wind-fanned flames from the "Black Thursday" fire charred thousands of acres in Upper Solano County.

The fire — caused by illegal "Roman Candle" type fireworks — erupted off a dirt road north of Bucktown Lane about 9:15 p.m. Saturday. The area, he added, is a popular party spot for local teens.

Two suspect vehicles — both passenger cars — are being traced in connection with the incident.

Powell and regional law enforcement authorities also are fingerprinting fireworks and beer bottles that were found near the fire's point of origin.

Firefighters had little hope of controlling the flames when they first arrived. Gusting 40-mile-per-hour winds sent waves of flame shooting off in several directions through tinder dry

grass and brush.

Within minutes dozens of acres were involved and the fire was advancing steadily up a nearby ridge, threatening homes and outbuildings.

"It was probably moving a half-acre to an acre per minute," Powell said.

The explosive fire destroyed homes, vehicles and outbuildings at 3006 Bucktown Lane, 3814 Serenity Hills Drive, 660 Gibson Canyon Road and 576 Gibson Canyon Road, leaving residents and their families homeless....

At the height of the blaze more than 120 firefighters with 34 engines and 18 power wagons were battling flames.

Every fire department in Solano County — including Vallejo and Benicia — sent at least one truck for mutual aid, Powell said.

The California Department of Forestry also sent in truck crews and bulldozers, and state Office of Emergency Services strike teams were dispatched from Contra Costa County....

Four firefighters sustained minor injuries in the Serenity Hills battle — two suffered from smoke inhalation, one injured his neck in a fall, and a fourth burned his arms when the wind shifted and sent a wall of fire rolling over him.

By Brian Hamlin, Staff Writer
The Reporter, July 8, 1981

Firefighters control Mount Vaca blaze

After a week of battles, firefighters won the war Saturday when the Mount Vaca fire was declared 100 percent controlled.

"This morning we had 1,163 people and right now you couldn't jam together 400," said Harold Rose at the firefighters' base camp at Pena Adobe Park. "So stay off the roads; there's a bunch of tired people heading home to feed the cat or the dog."

At its height, there were 2,064 firefighters and other workers struggling to squelch the flames that scorched 35,000 acres. That number will drop to 50 "hot spot" watchers by today, said Rose.

"This camp won't even exist (Sunday)," said Rose, the chief public information officer for the California Department of Forestry.

The blaze, the work of an arsonist, broke out Sept. 17 in Miller Canyon. By the time firefighters claimed victory, it had caused \$1.8 million worth of damage — destroying seven homes and 11 outbuildings, and

Fire started by arsonist destroyed seven homes

damaging communication equipment atop Mount Vaca.

The estimated cost of winning the fiery fight stood at \$2.6 million Saturday.

Now that the fire is out, most of the firefighters will head for home. A few crews, however, will remain alert to any sparks from the still-smoldering brush in the hills northwest of Vacaville.

"An inch or two of rain would be very nice," Rose said, adding that the danger of a flare-up will be present for several weeks.

Although the fire is out, signs of it remained along Pleasants Valley Road Saturday.

The most obvious are the scorched hills north of the road that firefighters "back burned" in their attempt to stop the fire's march toward the city limits.

There were other signs alongside the road, too, including sev-

eral hand-painted proclamations from residents: "Thank you firefighters," they read.

"Whether it shows or not, when you drive down the road and you see that, it brings tears to your eyes," Rose said. "When somebody comes out and says thank you, that means a lot."

The signs proved especially meaningful to Rose and other firefighters after the words of criticism that made newspaper headlines in recent days.

Some complained that fire crews lit too many acres on fire in their successful effort to fight the fire with fire.

Rose defended CDF's actions Saturday.

"We couldn't have used anything else. If we could have, we would have," he said, predicting that it would have cost \$5 million to fight the blaze with air

planes and fire retardant alone.

"Our job is putting out fires," he said. "Not herding them, not managing them. Just putting out the suckers and going home."

Now that the fire is out, the CDF law enforcement team will step in and begin its effort to track down the person or people who sparked the inferno.

Officials reported early on that an incendiary device had been found at the fire's origin, but Rose said Saturday that was a mistake. It is still believed, however, that the fire was deliberately set.

"The circumstances surrounding the origin lead us to believe the fire to be arson," he said. "How did we arrive at those circumstances? There were no power lines up there, no lightning... It was in a remote area. It was 10 something at night."

"Why people start fires you don't know until catch 'em."

By Sue McClurg, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Sept. 25, 1988

City picks marshal to be fire chief

Bob Powell, Vacaville's "well respected" and popular fire marshal, has accepted a \$37,000-a-year fire chief's job, after a four-member assessment team declared him the No. 1 choice of five candidates Tuesday afternoon.

Powell promised to bring honesty, firmness, fairness and consistency to the department, whose reputation he says was unfairly tarnished during former Fire Chief Dale Geldert's rocky last six months before he resigned in October.

He begins his new job tomorrow as chief of the 43-person department with the blessings of his own team and members of the city management staff.

Even Elmira Fire Chief Don Pippo, who has been battling with the city department for the past few years, says he can work with Powell as long as there's "mutual respect"....

Well received

Pat Elliott, president of the Vacaville Firefighters' Association, reported the decision to

hire Powell, 39, will be well received by his 30-member group.

"He's worked up through the department," explained Elliott.

Despite local sentiments within the department, council and community supporting a Solano County candidate, both Powell and City Manager Walter Graham said the new chief's skills and personality won him the job.

"We didn't choose a local person — we chose the best-qualified candidate from the field," said Graham, adding he was impressed with Powell's candor and technical knowledge.

There were 20 applicants for the job — compared to more than 70 nearly three years ago when Geldert was hired. Only seven of those 20 were considered qualified for the interview.



Powell



Geldert

this is where I wanted to stay," he said.

Powell has lived in Vacaville since 1964 after arriving in Solano County via the U.S. Air Force in 1962. He joined the volunteer firefighters in 1964 and became a fulltime employee in 1965.

He was appointed as a shift captain in October 1976, and then fire marshal and arson investigator shortly after Geldert arrived in the spring of 1979.

Powell finished his bachelor's degree in public administration this spring from University of San Francisco after earning an associate of arts degree in fire science from Solano Com-

munity College.

\$2,000 salary increase

Powell will receive only a \$2,000 salary hike from his present \$35,000 salary, since the city manager lowered the salary range to \$37,000 from Geldert's \$43,000 salary.

He and his wife, Mardell, have two children.

To become chief, Powell will have to make some sacrifices. He will retire from the Vacaville Rural Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighters — where his brother-in-law Howard Wood is chief — and he will have to disband his musical group, "Bob Powell and the Notations," in which he is band-leader and guitar player....

Devote 100 percent

"I plan to devote 100 percent of my time to the fire chief job," said Powell....

By Susanne Rockwell,
Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 16, 1981

House fire kills five from family

The most ambitious and thorough fire probe in the history of the Vacaville Fire Department continues today as investigators try to piece together the chain of events that killed five members of a Sacramento family early Sunday.

Expert after expert has sifted through the burned-out home at 372 Elsinore Drive, Vacaville.

Meanwhile, family and friends of the Raul Isais family gathered today to pay their last respects to the victims of the worst residential fire in the city's history.

Isais, 35, his wife, Aurora, 31, and three children died of smoke inhalation in the 3:33 a.m. blaze that left neighbors and family members stunned.

The family was housesitting for Isais' parents, Jesus and Petra Ponce, who were vacationing in Ukiah.

The tragic story includes the father's attempts to save his four children and wife from the inferno that gutted the two-story wood and stucco home in the south city neighborhood.

Raul Isais was able to carry his 7-year-old daughter, Carmelita, to safety and leave her with a neighbor before re-entering the home never to be seen again.

His wife and three other children, Petra, 4, Berta, 2, and Celia, 6 months, died in the house. According to Fire Chief Dale Geldert, it appears they were overcome by toxic fumes and did not burn to death.

Fire investigators are working overtime to find the cause of the fire, which is believed to have started in a downstairs room. All of the occupants were sleeping upstairs.

Chief Geldert said there reportedly was a smoke alarm system in the house, but investigators have been unable to locate it in the ruins.

"This is a really tough one," Geldert told The Reporter. "We have bits and pieces of information, but that's all."

By Steve Huddleston,
Staff Writer
The Reporter, Aug. 6, 1980

Candles ignite inferno in mobile home; 3 die

A young woman and two children perished in an early morning fire when their Brown Street mobile home ignited into a ball of flames yesterday.

Solano County Coroner James O'Brien tentatively identified the three victims as Audrey J. Seaman, 17; Anthony Trevino 3; and Donnie Ellen Trevino 1 1/2. Seaman and her husband were temporarily living with the Trevino family. A third Trevino child, an older brother, was staying with a grandparent in Dixon at the time of the fire.

Although the cause of the fatal blaze still is under investigation, Vacaville fire officials tentatively said it may have

been started by candles used when winds cut power to the neighborhood Friday night.

Neighbors said the babysitter had borrowed candles Friday night to provide light when the power went out, according to investigators. Several candle holders were found in the charred debris of the mobile home.

"There's a good possibility the fire was started by candles," said Fire Marshal Bob Powell, who estimated the total damage at \$20,000. "Fires in trailers ignite real fast, like a flammable liquid fire in a regular structure. It was impossible for them (the victims) to get out; there was no chance."

The Reporter, Feb. 22, 1981

Officials urge public to install smoke alarms

Spurred by the city's second multiple casualty fire in seven months, Vacaville fire officials again are pleading for more widespread use of smoke alarms in homes.

"We've just got to get the word out about how much can be saved with an early warning system," Vacaville Fire Marshal Bob Powell said.

Going over the results of his investigation into the fire last weekend that killed a 17-year-old babysitter and her two young charges, Powell shook his head in disap-

pointment.

Chances are, Powell noted, the average family will experience one serious fire every generation. It is the third leading cause of accidental death. Smoke and deadly gases easily overcome occupants asleep at night.

Smoke detectors give a family warning of fire while they still have time to escape, Powell noted. Numerous home fire incidents have already proven conclusively that smoke detectors save lives, property and prevent injury from fire....

The city fire code requires all new homes to be equipped with at least one smoke detector, Powell noted. A fire department recommendation for a city law to require them in all homes so far has not received action by City Hall.

Meanwhile, Powell and his Fire Prevention Bureau are working with the Vacaville Soroptimist Club to provide smoke alarms for the elderly, disabled and low-income families living in older homes without them.

The Reporter, Feb. 25, 1981



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'Vaca Saves' nets \$67,500 in effort

If the "Vaca Saves" energy conservation program really made you sweat from noon to six this summer, you were responsible for part of what organizers are calling victory.

Vacaville's energy conservation program came out on top among the five Northern California cities competing for the first time, earning \$67,500 from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. for city energy programs.

Program coordinator Monica Espinosa applauded the efforts of the many homeowners and local businesspeople who cut their energy use during the four-month program.

"I'm happy that everyone learned so much from the 'Vaca Saves' program," said Espinosa. "But I'm disappointed we didn't make our goal."

Despite the good efforts of many energy users, Vacaville fell short of the 10 percent energy reduction needed to win the most offered — \$100,000 from PG&E to be spent on community conservation programs.

While energy consumption

dropped about 8 percent in August, the volunteer effort seemed to slack off in September.

Residential use actually increased to more than 1.2 percent over last September's energy use while commercial users cut back 5.1 percent.

In this first of a two-year energy conservation campaign, Vacaville did make the best showing of five first-year cities: Concord, Clovis, Manteca and Hollister.

The \$67,500 awarded to Vacaville is based on a combination of reduction of electrical usage during the summer months and the high level of awareness by Vacaville citizens about the program.

"Some people cut back as much as 50 or 60 percent. We have to get those next year who didn't do anything," said Espinosa.

Next June, the cause for conservation will start again as Vacaville will have a second chance to win \$100,000 for the community.

The Reporter
Oct. 26, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. CPR lauded

Phil and Eddith Moehr, two retired Vacaville residents who have donated thousands of hours promoting cardiopulmonary resuscitation in Solano County, were named citizens of the year by the Solano County Peace Officers Association Tuesday night.

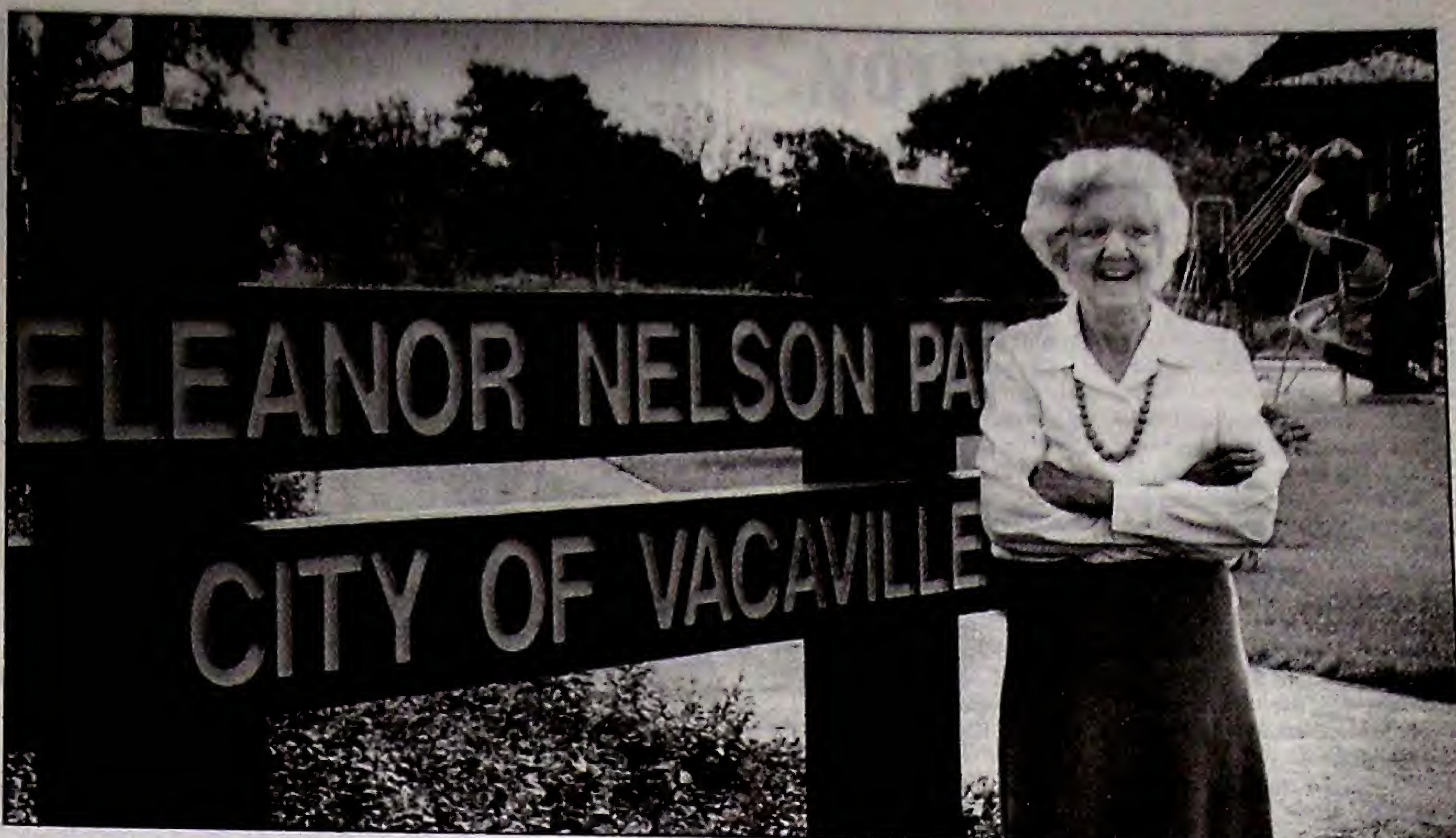
In a presentation at the Vacaville City Council, Sgt. Joseph Potts of California Medical Facility, president of the SPCA, gave the Moehrs a certification of appreciation.

Since the Moehrs first became involved in teaching

people CPR some 2,188 people in Solano County have been trained in the gift of life.

In fact, the city of Vacaville has become the top city in the nation in percentage of cardiac arrest patients saved, reported Moehr in his annual presentation Tuesday to the City Council. Vacaville, which has a paramedic program assisted through the Moehr's volunteering training of people in the community, has a 2 percent better record than the city of Seattle.

The Reporter, Feb. 25, 1981



Her selfless devotion to teaching and community activism earned Eleanor Nelson the right to have a city park named after her.

Park to be named for Eleanor Nelson

The Swasey Park site and its proposed softball diamond complex will carry the name of one of Vacaville's most distinguished residents, Eleanor Nelson.

The City Council voted late Tuesday to name the 10-acre community park after Nelson, a 64-year resident, retired teacher and longtime civic activist.

City Councilman John Vasquez made the proposal after the council's members approved the design for a three-diamond softball complex on park land at Nut Tree Road and Marshall Road.

"Mrs. Nelson could have stopped doing things for the community 20 years ago and people would still be appreciative of her work. But she just kept on. She does many things without a lot of fanfare," said Vasquez.

Along with naming the park after Nelson, the council also voted to name the main softball diamond after former Vacaville High School principal and city Parks and Recreation Commissioner John Arlington.

Nelson said she was honored to have the commu-

nity park carry her name.

In 1920, Nelson came to Vacaville to take up her first teaching post at the high school. During the next 31 years, she taught Spanish, English, French, history, algebra, economics and social living. Many a longtime Vacaville resident can claim to be one of her former students.

After retiring from her teaching duties in 1951, Nelson continued on with her community work. It was in the 1940s that Nelson help set up the Youth Council to provide evening and weekend recreational activities for young people. She continued to work in city recreation and was eventually honored for her efforts by a statewide parks and recreation organization.

The new Eleanor Nelson Park will feature two lighted and fenced softball diamonds and a third open field diamond. There will also be picnic areas, parking and a concession stand. The park is next to the proposed Vaca Pena Intermediate School.

By Cynthia Roberts, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Aug. 30, 1984

"Mrs. Nelson could have stopped doing things for the community 20 years ago and people would still be appreciative of her work. But she just kept on. She does many things without a lot of fanfare,"

John Vasquez



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1985 - Remington turned over the operation of the Lake City Arsenal in Independence, MO to Olin Corporation. Remington had operated this facility for the U.S. Government for more than 45 years.

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Vandals destroy school equipment

Two vandals caught ransacking Vacaville's Sierra Vista School on Sunday face felony charges and their parents could be held liable for the damages they inflicted at the south city campus.

Estimate of damage is \$20,000, but school officials report it could go higher once they complete an inventory of destroyed property and finish clean-up work.

Teachers, students and parents still are reeling from the discovery of the wanton destruction of nine classrooms and the school library. School and law enforcement officials say they want the boys prosecuted and punished.

It's just a big mess. It's just horrendous. ... It makes me sick.

Richard Barela,
assistant
superintendent

In one morning, the two vandals caused more damage than the school district suffered in vandalism in all of 1980, according to Superintendent Robert Brickman.

Excluding two arson fires last year, Vacaville Unified School District lost \$13,574 in property due to vandalism in 1980, Brickman said. Three fires accounted for another \$811,000.

The two culprits may have escaped their fate had it not been for a Sierra Vista School teacher Debbie Heuer who came to work on her day off. She entered the school and heard noises and immediately ran across the street to summon police.

Expecting a burglar, police surrounded the campus and Officer Mel Howell entered to investigate. When he found the two boys, ages 12 and 14, one had just

tossed a slide projector across a room.

The officer ordered the pair to "freeze" and took them into custody without incident.

The young suspects told officers that they noticed the school open and went in to investigate the damage. All of the doors had been pried open by the vandals.

Once inside a classroom, the boys destroyed globes, lights, machines, projectors, desks, bulletin boards and carpeting. Paint and glue were smeared across chalkboards and windows. Obscenities were scrawled throughout.

The pair reportedly used screwdrivers to enter the classroom. A hammer was used to gain access to the top four-classroom units, the library and a portable classroom.

The older suspect reportedly is a former Will C. Wood Junior High School student. The 12-year-old attends a local private school.

"It's just a big mess," Assistant Superintendent Richard Barela told The Reporter. "It's just horrendous. They took a hammer to a lot of equipment, smashed up a typewriter. It makes me sick."

Brickman said the school district's insurance includes a \$25,000 deductible for vandalism.

A new state law, however, automatically makes the parents of juveniles liable for \$5,000 each.

By Steve Huddleston,
Staff Writer
The Reporter, Feb. 25, 1981



The Vacaville school board gained four new members in 1981 when voters recalled a majority of the board. Voters were upset that the board majority had granted a large pay increase to a controversial superintendent. Sworn into office were new board members (from left) George Noble, Dottie O'Hara, Joyce Gordon and Doreen Conrad.

Reporter file photo

More students but less money

Schools: Recall and awards mark the decade

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Vacaville may be well-adjusted to the notion of year-round schools now, but there was a time in the very late '70s and early '80s when that topic was a sore one, indeed.

In 1978, the school board "mandated year-round education at every level. It's not that we were against the concept, it's just that we were opposed to having a choice taken away from us," Dottie O'Hara, who served on the school board from 1981 through 1989 and presided for four of those years, recalled in 1999.

Until year-round education became an issue, O'Hara had been "just a parent volunteer, not an active participant." But the mandate sparked the ire of many, she said.

"I joined the chorus to get a petition signed that would allow people to vote on the matter."

The signature campaign was going so well, O'Hara said, that "even before the petitions were counted" the board rescinded its mandate. Still, the stage had been set for a bitter confrontation.

When the school board voted in December 1980 to give Superintendent Robert Brickman a substantial salary increase as well as retroactive pay, a group quickly organized. Their purpose was twofold: to try to get the money back and to recall the four trustees who had voted for the \$9,000 pay hike.

Voter turnout for the June 1981 recall was light, but it was enough to give O'Hara and three other newcomers seats on the seven-member board.

"The matter (of year-round schools) never really came up again," O'Hara said, until the issue moved to the state level, where it was tied to the construction of new schools.

"The irony of the whole thing is that we already (See Schools, Page 23)

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1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY



Robert Brickman, school superintendent in the early 1980s, stirred up controversy with plans for year-round schools.

Schools ♦♦♦

(Continued from Page 22)

had a very successful year-round program at Fairmont, and the parents loved it."

That program was discontinued following the upheaval, she said.

"The 1980s were an amazing time in many ways," O'Hara remembered. "They were turbulent times at the beginning and balloons and flowers at the end."

Several big issues "hit us head-on" through the 1980s, O'Hara added. The district wrestled with burgeoning enrollment and severely restricted budgets. It also built a new junior high school, Vaca Pena, in 1986 and converted Will C. Wood from a junior high to Vacaville's second high school in 1989.

"We also had sex and health education issues, especially when AIDS came onto the scene in the mid-'80s," O'Hara recalled. "In retrospect, that is one vote I am not very happy with. It (a policy to prevent students with AIDS from attending school) was a foolish policy; it was eventually thrown out. I was totally embarrassed to be a part of that."

Proposition 13, passed in 1978, restricted the district from asking local voters for more money, and budgets throughout the 1980s were very tight. Not helping matters were two arson fires in 1980 that severely damaged several facilities at both Padan Elementary and Will C. Wood campuses.

Lyle Welch replaced the controversial Robert Brickman as

superintendent in 1984, and "it was the best thing to ever happen to the Vacaville school district," O'Hara opined. "He came in and took it on during a turbulent time. He established trust among employees, and contracts got settled. He is an unsung hero."

By the end of the decade, Vacaville had become home to several distinguished schools. Vacaville High School won the National Distinguished School award in 1987, one year after winning an equivalent state award. Padan Elementary took state honors in 1987 and claimed the national award in 1988. Orchard and Alamo elementary schools were honored as state distinguished schools in 1987 and 1989, respectively.



Reporter file photos

Lyle Welch became the school superintendent in 1984 and led the district through several years of tight finances.

"The 1980s were ... turbulent times at the beginning and balloons and flowers at the end."

Dottie O'Hara

St. Mary's ready to build school

Parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Vacaville have more than \$1 million pledged to help build the city's newest private school.

The goal is to raise \$2 million from parishioners to open an elementary school in south Vacaville in September 1987.

"It's a major undertaking for a parish," said Al Nordhues, co-chairman of the fund-raising campaign. "It's something the people of our parish have been waiting for for 15 to 20 years."

Barbara Debevec, youth director at St. Mary's, said many Catholic parents are showing they would like a Catholic school and have reinforced their sentiments with a donation toward construction of the school — parishioners have already contributed more than \$1 million.

"It's astounding that we've gotten this much so quick," Debevec said. "I think people are coming out and showing that this is a priority and important."

The school, to be built at Marshall and Nut Tree roads starting next summer, will accommodate 300 to 400 children in kindergarten through eighth grade. It will feature an extended child care center. Debevec estimated 200 Catholic children in Vacaville attend the Christian Academy or public schools ...

Paul McGuire, co-chairman of the fund-raising campaign, said the school will be one of the first new parochial schools in Northern California in a long time.

He said the concept has been a dream for 10 years, but it was realized 2 1/2 years ago when a school committee bought the 25-acre parcel. They were only looking to buy 10 acres, so within two years the church sold 15 acres and received enough money to pay off the 10 acres, according to Nordhues ...

By Fran Clader, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Oct. 10, 1985

Pitching in for music

After watching the quality of music education decline because California no longer requires its teachers to get music training, Vacaville parents and instructors are taking their own measures to tune up elementary programs.

This fall, the Parent Teachers Club of Elm Elementary School will become the second volunteer group to hire a music specialist to teach their children, following the example the Alamo Elementary, School PTA set in the winter of '82.

Elm school will become the third of Vacaville's 10 elementary schools to have a music teacher. The 30 classroom teachers at Padan Elementary School each take an extra student to allow one instructor to teach music ...

Such a push for better music education reflects frustration on the part of parents ... and the growing number of teachers who are helpless to pass on music knowledge they don't have.

The Reporter
Aug. 5, 1984

NORTH BAYTM VACAVALLEY HOSPITAL

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For decades, the residents of Vacaville and surrounding communities dreamed of their own hospital. The first hurdle for the building of the new hospital was perhaps the largest: securing a Certificate of Need from the State of California.

Hundreds of Vacaville residents, from great-grandparents to elementary school children, wrote letters asking for the state to approve a hospital for their hometown. The state listened to the local community, and the hospital was approved. Thousands of people in the community then donated money to purchase equipment for what would be their hospital.



Ground was broken for Vacaville's hospital in August 1985, and residents watched eagerly as their new hospital leaped into the skyline. VacaValley Hospital changed from a dream into a reality on July 1, 1987, when the staff opened its doors to the public for the first time. VacaValley Hospital is a 50-bed, non-profit hospital providing a wide range of medical services to the residents of Vacaville and the surrounding communities.

The hospital has a 24-hour Emergency Service, 44 medical-surgical beds, a six-bed intensive care unit, two surgery suites, a laboratory, pharmacy, and a fully-equipped radiology department, including a computerized tomography scanner (CAT scan). VacaValley Hospital provides the only 24-hour emergency and critical care to the more than 70,000 residents in that area. In 1998 alone, 17,000 people used the services of the emergency department.

VacaValley Hospital is the sister facility of NorthBay Medical Center in Fairfield. In 1992, Fairfield Medical Group, the 50-year-old, 50-physician medical group became part of NorthBay Healthcare System.

For more information about NorthBay Healthcare System, visit our website at www.northbay.org.

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Groundbreaking Ceremony. L to R: Ron Du Pratt, George Tomasini, B. Gale Wilson, Bill Carroll and Martha Orr.

Winning coach, staff resign

For the past 15 years John Gilley has been at the helm of one of the most successful track and field programs in Northern California. Since the Monticello Empire League was formed in 1977, Gilley and his teams have compiled a remarkable 29-1 dual-meet record at Vacaville High School, losing only to Fairfield in 1978. His Bulldog teams have claimed four of five dual-meet championships and took first place in four of five league meets.

The dynasty that the soft-spoken mentor has built over the years is now a memory as far as John Gilley is concerned. Early this week, The Reporter learned that Gilley, along with assistant coaches Rudy Montalvo, Steve Smentek and Jeff Adcock, have resigned their posts and will not return to the track next season.

The resignation, which was submitted last month, was kept very quiet. "I haven't really made a big deal about it," the 48-year-old Gilley said. "I don't think a lot of people know about it. Just a few close friends and the family, I guess."

After graduating from Vaca High in 1951, Gilley went on to Vallejo Junior College (now Solano Community College) where he received a provisional teaching credential. During his prep days as a bulldog, he starred in football, baseball, basketball and track. After receiving his teaching credential, he landed a job at Travis Elementary School where he taught school and coached flag football, softball, basketball and his first love — track and field.

In 1963, he left Travis for a two-year stint at Fairfield's Crystal School before taking over as the chairman of the physical education department at Vaca High in 1965.

Following a year as an assistant track coach, he took the helm in 1966, while the Bulldogs were battling in the Golden Empire League.

His team struggled for three years in GEL, before finishing second in 1969. Since that second place finish 12 years ago, Gilley's teams have never finished lower.

The Bulldogs joined the Delta League the following season and for six years were bridesmaids behind perennial track powerhouse Rancho Cordova. In 1976, the last year Vacaville competed in the Delta League, Gilley led his team to the league championship, upsetting the Lancers. The squad then went on to capture the Northwest Sac Joaquin Sub Section Championship.

In 1975, Gilley resigned his job as assistant coach of the Bulldog grid squad to devote more time to track. He got involved with the Sac Joaquin Section, served as an official and helped run some of the top meets in the northern part of the state.

The resignation of the entire staff has brought speculation that the coaches have been displeased with the school district.

"That's a small part of it," Gilley admitted. "The job has been a lot tougher than it should be because of the lack of support from the district. There comes a time when all the work (lining the track, scheduling buses, etc.) is really work. Coaching the kids and going to meets is still fun. But the rest of it is work. I just decided that it was time for someone else to do it."

"I've been a Bulldog all my life," he said, "I don't intend to change now."

By Mike Sullivan,
Assistant Sports Editor
The Reporter, July 22, 1981

Walls are tilted up on what was originally called the Andrews Park Sports Center (right), but was later renamed the Georgie Duke Sports Center, after a man who for 33 years helped Vacaville youth learn to box. With the sports center in the background, a crew works on forms for a curb (below right).

Reporter file photos



TRIBUTE IS A KNOCKOUT

Sports center named for boxer, volunteer

After George Duke's 33 years aiding local youths and teaching them how to box, Vacaville politicians figured the least the city could do is name the new sports center after him.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving than Georgie Duke," said Mayor Bill Carroll. "Georgie's efforts throughout the past three decades have been that of a concerned individual who thought about the youths of the community."

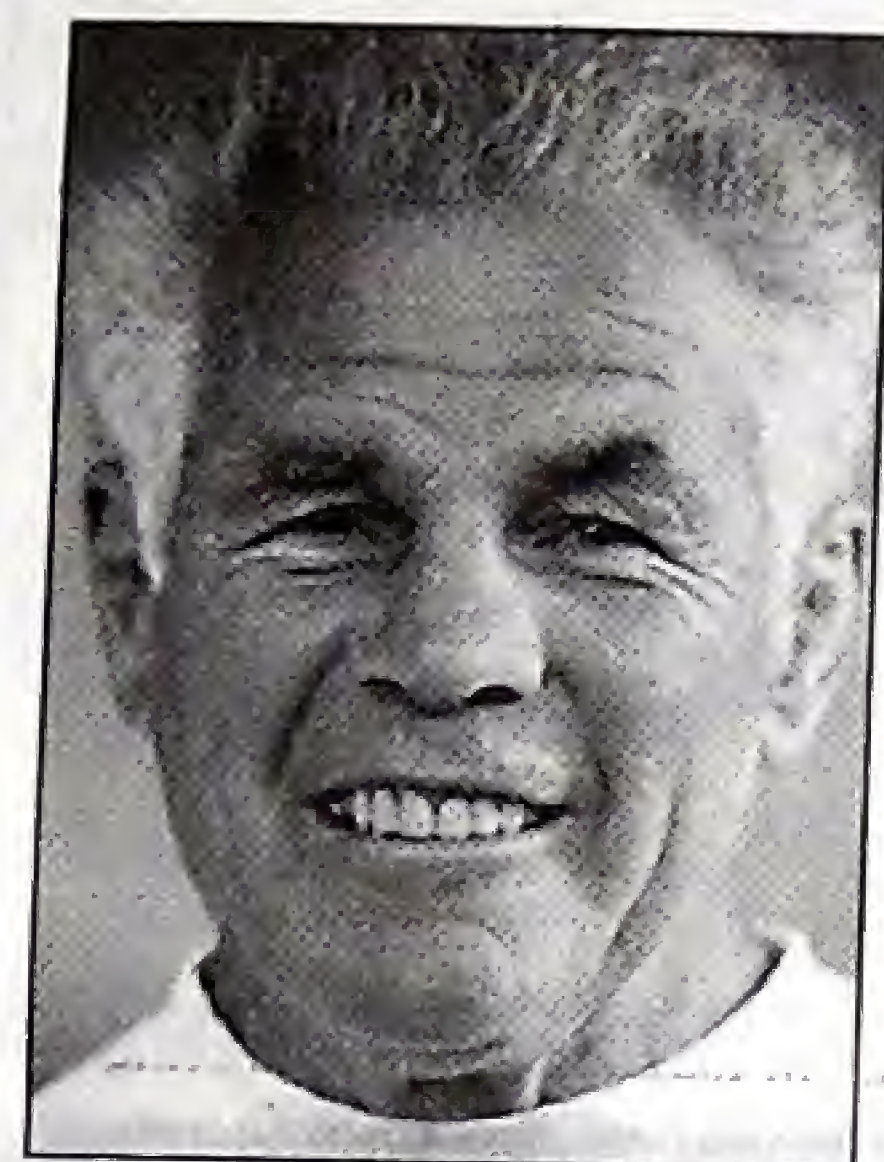
During a City Council meeting later this month the \$1.6 million sports center, in its last phase of construction, is slated to be named after Duke.

The affable Duke, whose own illustrious boxing career included more than 150 fights and a victory over the eventual middleweight champion, spent the past 33 years supervising the boxing program in Vacaville.

He said he is honored to have the facility named after him.

"I had it rough as a kid," he said. "I was a punk. Boxing turned my life around and kept me out of jail."

But the 67-year-old Duke, who first laced up boxing gloves at the age of 12, says he tries to go beyond just teaching boxing. He also wants to help youths emerge from adolescence as



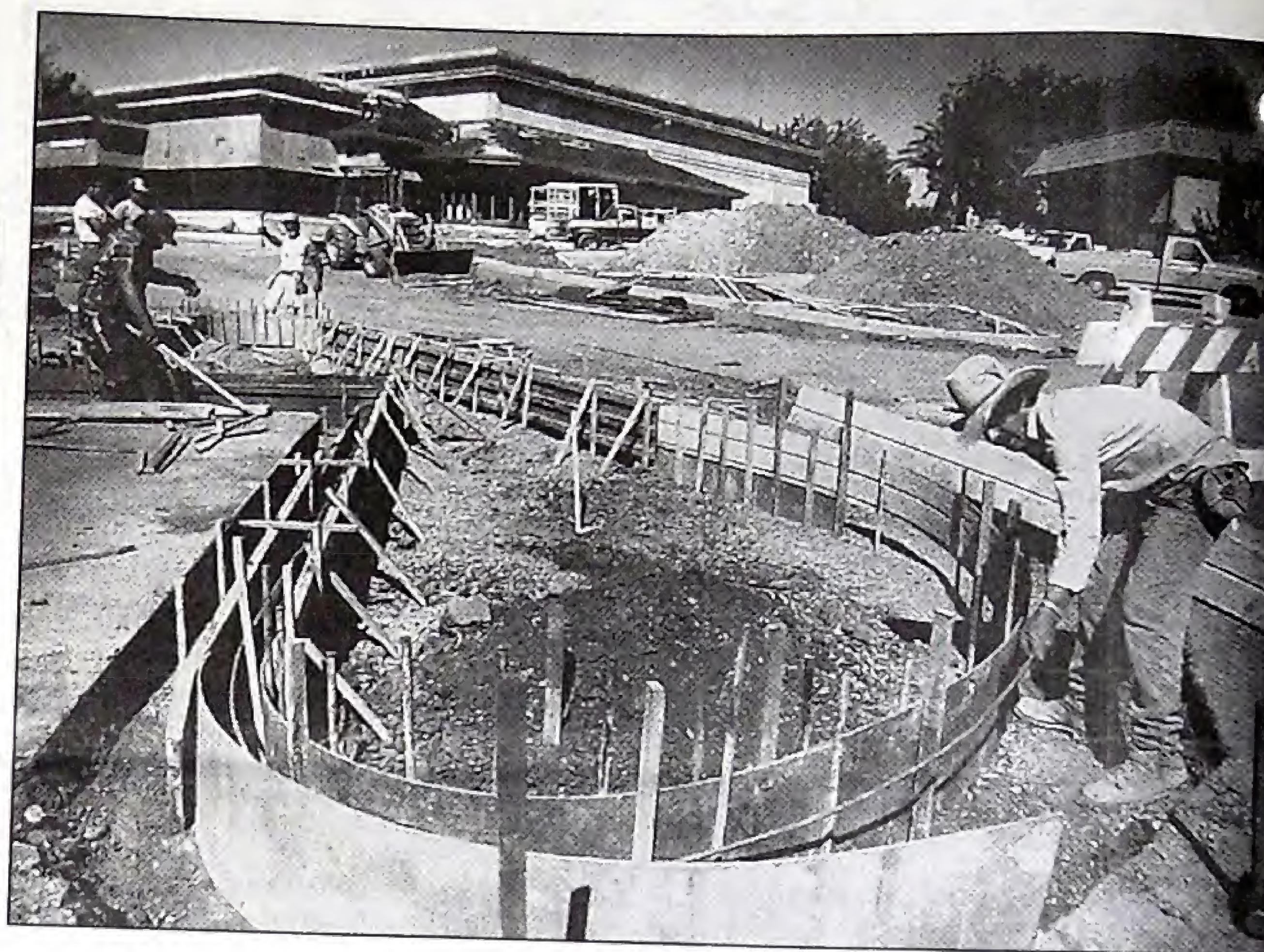
Georgie Duke
... helped Vaca youth

better people.

"I try to help kids out by not only helping them with boxing, but by also teaching them about life," he said.

The new center, capable of hosting numerous recreation activities including basketball, volleyball, badminton, ballet, gymnastics and aerobics, takes the place of 3,700-square-foot, World War II-era Quonset hut that used to squat on Andrews Park.

The Quonset hut is where Duke spent much of his teaching career, but it was torn down to make way for the sports center. "I think it's really fitting the



sports center in on the site of where he did much of his community service," Carroll said.

The 13,600-square-foot sports center, now being built on a portion of the 15-acre Andrews Park, will hold a 8,000-square-foot gym, and is slated to be finished in the latter part of August or early September.

The center will include a full basketball court, two cross-courts, three badminton courts, two volleyball courts, an area for indoor soccer, a lobby, small locker rooms and restrooms.

The building will also contain a multipurpose room and outside restrooms for park users.

Duke is currently spearheading a campaign to raise \$15,000 to pay for a boxing ring and equipment, including boxing gloves, bag gloves, sand bags, punching bags, weights and jump ropes. So far, he's collected about \$8,000, just enough to pay for the ring alone.

By John Bachman,
Staff Writer
The Reporter, July 5, 1989

"I had it rough as a kid. I was a punk. Boxing turned my life around and kept me out of jail."

Georgie Duke

Vacaville's Alexio controls own future

Dennis Alexio's waiting game came to a climatic end Saturday night. He will never be put on hold again.

Alexio will now control his own future as he is the new Professional Karate Association world light heavyweight champion.

The 5-foot-11, 179-pound Vacaville fighter won the light heavyweight title Saturday with a victory by unanimous decision over Chicago's Roberto Salazar at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.

With the belt finally in his possession, Alexio indicated that he will no longer be the chaser, but the chasee.

"The tables have now turned," Alexio explained. "I waited for my shot at the title, and now they'll be coming after me."

Alexio was provided with the opportunity to win the crown when champion Emilio Navarez of Vineland, N.J., relinquished the title last month. Navarez won the belt in March of 1983, but never defended it.

Upon Navarez' retirement, the PKA decided to let Salazar, the No. 1-ranked contender and current U.S. champion, and Alexio, the No. 2 contender, battle to fill the vacancy.

And while his fighter came up on the short of the stick Saturday night, Mike MacNamara, Salazar's manager, was happy that the PKA will now have an "active" light heavyweight champion.

"Rob gave it his best shot, but Alexio's tough," offered MacNamara. "He deserves to be the champion."

Salazar's game plan backfired. He predicted if the fight went the distance, he would win. He didn't expect Alexio would have the stamina to last the entire 12 rounds.

Alexio, who has 16 knockouts in his 19 pro bouts, is not known for his lengthy bouts. Prior to Saturday, he had gone the distance only twice.

The last time Alexio went the distance it was noteworthy, for on the same night he suffered his first and

only loss as a professional.

World Karate Association light heavyweight champion Don "The Dragon" Wilson posted a victory by decision over Alexio March 29 in Hollywood, Fla.

Alexio showed patience, however, Saturday night against Salazar. He was not in a hurry to end the bout. He spent most of the fight looking to score points rather than go for the knockout.

When the final scores were read, Alexio was decisively ahead on all three cards — 118-113, 120-109 and 120-113. And when the ringside announcer began "and the new light heavyweight champion of the world is ...," Alexio was mobbed in the ring by his fans.

The celebration in the ring was special. Vacaville fight fans have been waiting to toast their favorite fighting son. They just wanted to savor the moment.

By Cecil Conley, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Sept. 25, 1984

Bulldogs take school's first ever NorCal title

Boys' team wins meet by 3 points

When a team's ultimate goal is attained over a long period of time, the satisfaction achieved can be all the more rewarding.

Such was the case Saturday at Sierra College in Rocklin as the Vacaville High School boys cross country team captured the school's first-ever Northern California championship.

Vacaville won the team title with 80 points. Casa Robles was second with 83, while Madera finished third with 100.

Senior Mason Myers paced the Bulldogs by winning the individual title.

"I'm pleased that I won, but I was more concerned with how the team did because we had never won a team title," said Myers.

For Coach Mike Larsen, in his 12th year, the victory was especially satisfying since it was reached through a combination of both talent and self-belief.

"I'm extremely pleased with these guys," offered Larsen after the race. "This is a pretty elite group of people. They set a goal (to win a NorCal team title) and they just believed in themselves all year long."

Despite the fact that Myers won the individ-

ual title, the team victory was by no means a one-man show.

Junior Scott Smoot finished a strong 10th place (15:23), while sophomore Kevin Holbrook (31st, 15:44), junior James Thurmond (36th, 15:48) and sophomore Cory Davis (61st, 16:14) also made strong showings.

Juniors Luis Luna (114th, 17:12) and Andy Rosebrook (136th, 18:35) also aided the Bulldogs cause.

By Dave Smith, Sports Writer
The Reporter, Nov. 30, 1986

1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY



Reporter file photo

Longtime harness racer and local rancher Hellen Davis (above) died in September 1981. Her racing career spanned 20 years.

Ex-harness racer, rancher dies at 83

Services will be held Monday for Hellen Davis, 83, a Vacaville native who died Friday morning at Intercommunity Hospital in Fairfield.

There are no known relatives.

Miss Davis was born in Vacaville in 1898 and graduated from Vacaville High School in 1917.

She was nationally known for her many wins as a harness racing driver.

She bred, broke, trained and raced her own harness horses and, over a 30-year period, accumulated many ribbons and trophies.

She raced at tracks all over California except during World War II when the California tracks were closed to racing and used as relocation centers.

She had raced at such presti-

gious tracks as Bay Meadows, Golden Gate Fields, Phoenix, Portland and Saratoga Springs.

She was the only woman listed in a 100-year compilation of successful drivers and trainers from 1845 to 1946.

She and her mother, Mattie Davis, owned several ranches in the Vacaville area which they rented.

Her mother died in 1974. Her father, George Washington Davis, died in 1917.

She entered her first race for money at the Dixon May Day Picnic in 1921 and continued racing over the next 30 years, with her final race being at Watsonville in 1951.

The Reporter, Sept. 27, 1981



City official killed in Mississippi crash

Vacaville Public Works Director Joe Munoz was among three men who died following a head-on crash with a wrong way auto on U.S. 49 in Hattiesburg, Miss., late Tuesday night. A fourth victim was hospitalized after suffering multiple injuries in the mishap.

Munoz, a major with the 49th Military Police Battalion of the California Army National Guard, was in Mississippi for a military exercise.

Hattiesburg Police Sgt. Larry Moore said Munoz, 42, was a passenger in a rented station wagon being driven south on U.S. 49 by 38-year-old Gary P. Bianchini of Saratoga about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday when their car crested a hill and was hit head-on by a northbound auto driven by James C. Raybon, 69, of Hattiesburg.

Raybon reportedly was driving against traffic and state highway patrolmen were pursuing his car in an attempt to stop him before the crash.

The three California men were in Mississippi for a weeklong joint military exercise and were reportedly on their way back to

nearby Camp Shelby after dining in Hattiesburg when the crash occurred.

Working overtime as Vacaville's public works chief or pursuing his many community and church activities, Joe Munoz left friends and associates with an appreciation for his talents as an engineer and a human being.

His sudden death Tuesday night shocked and saddened everyone whose life he touched.

Flags throughout the city are lowered to half-mast in his honor.

"This is going to be a very sad place for a long time," said Mayor Bill Carroll Wednesday.

Arriving in Vacaville to direct the city's Public Works Department in April 1977, Munoz left the assistant director's post in the city of El Cerrito.

As purveyor of the city's streets, sidewalks, sewer lines, traffic signals and public property, Munoz set high standards for his department. But, the mayor said, he never turned insensitive to a community that sometimes can be very critical and demanding.

"I don't think I knew a more likeable indi-

vidual or anyone who had higher standards," said former Fairfield Public Works Director Joe Shilts who worked with Munoz on joint projects as well as through the American Public Works Association. "Everybody always spoke highly of him."

Munoz, 42, enjoyed his work as a reservist in the National Guard and looked forward to his two-week stint of duty each year, said his associates. He was a major in the 49th Military Police Battalion.

"He had a lot of other interests in photography, fine music and art. He had many things he enjoyed in life," said Assistant City Manager John Thompson.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, in civil engineering, Munoz was very active in the local Rotary Club. A former lecturer at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Munoz had become a Eucharistic minister and was a member of the church's Parochial School Planning Committee.

By Brian Hamlin and Cynthia Roberts, Staff Writers

Lifelong fruit rancher dies after long illness

Funeral services will be conducted today and Friday for Joe M. Cruces Sr., 71, a well-known Vacaville native who, together with his twin brother Willie, were horseback fixtures and later grand marshals of the city's Fiesta Days parade.

A lifelong fruit rancher, Mr. Cruces died Tuesday in a Fairfield hospital after a long illness.

An avid supporter of Vacaville's Fiesta Days parade, Mr. Cruces was instrumental in building a portable grandstand on which residents of Windsor House Convalescent Hospital sat to view the annual Main Street celebration.

His parents, Joe and Mary Cruces, immigrated to Vacaville in 1912 from Spain. Joe Cruces attended Vacaville Elementary School, which was located in what is now Andrews Park, up to

the fifth grade. One of his first jobs was with the Frank Buck Co., a prominent fruit-growing, packing and shipping operation.

"I remember hauling fruit through the streets of Vacaville (to be shipped back East)," Mr. Cruces told the Reporter in 1980. "Vacaville had boarded sidewalks then, and the streets were unpaved. That was in the 1920s."

Mr. Cruces recalled working for "12 cents an hour" in the 1920s and early 1930s. "My weekly paycheck was \$7.50, but that was when a dollar was worth a dollar," he said.

A member of the Moose Lodge, Mr. Cruces recently served the local lodge, No. 1887, as a three-year trustee.

The Reporter, Feb. 7, 1985

Vaca man who pushed 'Uhl Dam' dies at his home

Edwin "Ed" Uhl, a lifetime Vacaville rancher instrumental in persuading the federal government to build Monticello Dam, guaranteeing irrigation and drinking water to much of Solano County, died Friday evening.

Funeral services are pending for Mr. Uhl, 93, who died at home. He had been in declining health, having survived two strokes and a bout with pneumonia in recent years.

"If it hadn't been for Mr. Uhl, Vacaville and Fairfield could not have grown the way they have because both use Monticello water," said John Rico, president of John Rico Publishing Co. and Uhl's friend for 70 years. "The growth of these two communities is primarily due to the Monticello Dam of which Mr. Uhl was so enthusiastic about and helped get put in place."

According to Mr. Uhl's daughter Helen, now living in Tiburon, helping Monticello Dam become reality was her father's "proudest achievement."

"It was one of his most humanitarian moves. It really benefited the community," she said.

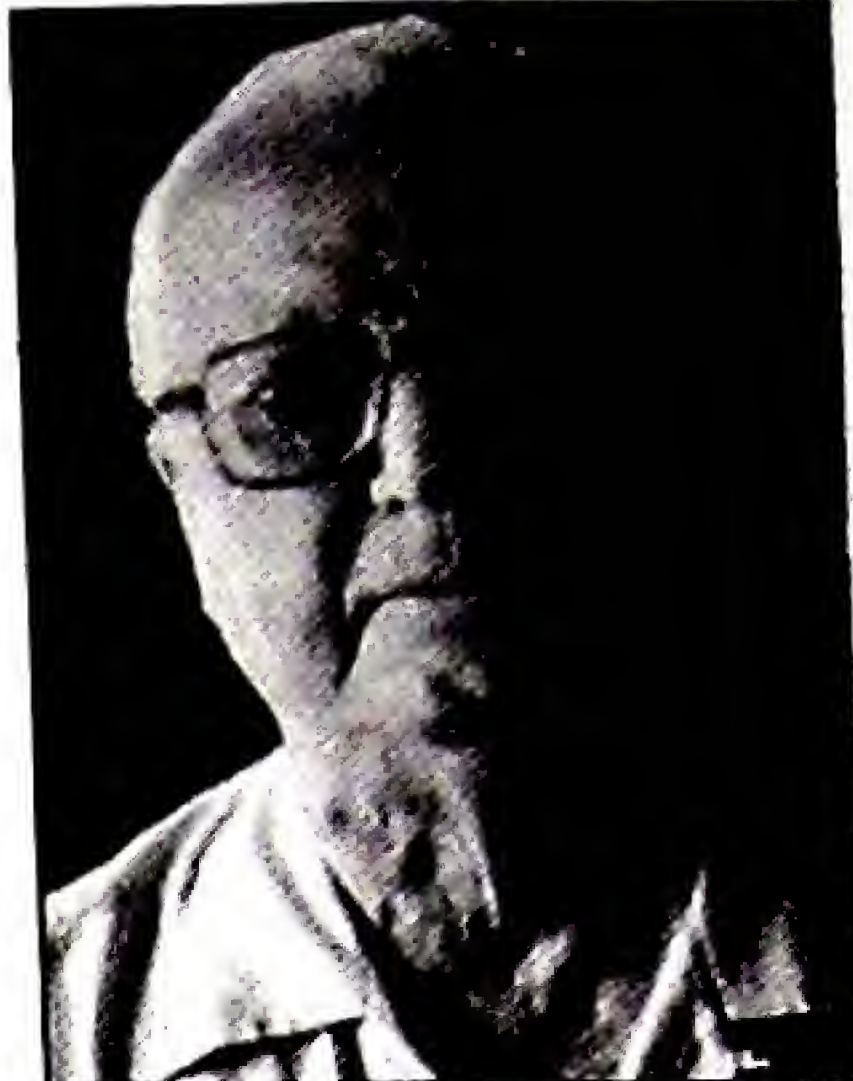
Mr. Uhl, who harvested fruit and kept large herds of sheep on his property behind where Albertson's now stands, is credited with sparking the move to get congressional support for the dam at Lake Berryessa.

During a period of 10 years, Mr. Uhl made 17 trips to Washington, D.C. He spoke before congressional committees and officials with the Bureau of Reclamation to get funding and permits for the construction of the dam.

He was also influential in getting then-Gov. Earl Warren and several state congressmen to support the project.

Construction of the dam was completed in 1957, prompting many locals in 1958 to suggest it be called "The Uhl Dam," because actually Ed Uhl built it," according to a May 8, 1958 article in The Reporter.

Solano County officials are in the process of buying the Solano Project, comprising Lake Berryessa, Monticello Dam and its water delivery system, which



Ed Uhl
... Monticello Dam backer

includes the Putah South Canal, from the federal government by paying off nearly \$20 million the county owes.

Mr. Uhl, who grew prunes, peaches, apricots and pears, was the first rancher in the area to install a commercial fruit dehydrator. He used it to dehydrate his prunes and those of fellow farmers, said Rico.

His dehydrated fruitpicks were sold nationwide, Rico said.

In 1933, Basic American Foods Inc. leased his dehydrating operation in the prune off-season to dry onions and garlic. From its initial beginning with Mr. Uhl, Basic, later a major employer in Vacaville until it closed its local plant in 1985, became the nation's largest dehydrator of onions.

Mr. Uhl was also an auto dealer, opening Dodge and Plymouth dealerships on Main Street in 1935.

"He did almost everything, but primarily he was a rancher and his biggest accomplishment was Monticello Dam," Rico said.

Besides his daughter Helen, Mr. Uhl is survived by a daughter, Barbara Toranzo of Tucson, Ariz., and several grandchildren. His wife, Frances, preceded him in death by two years.

Mr. Uhl's father, Clarence, who died July 22, 1965, served on the Vacaville City Council for 33 years, and held mayor's post for 12 of those.

By Fran Clader, Staff Writer,
The Reporter, April 3, 1988

Ex-Vaca mayor dies after brief illness

Rudolph "Rudy" C. Werner, 74, a native of Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and a prominent resident of Vacaville, died suddenly Friday morning at Intercommunity Hospital, Fairfield, where he had been transported late Thursday afternoon.

Death was attributed to a cerebral hemorrhage.

Werner had attended the regular weekly luncheon meeting of the Vacaville Rotary Club at the Nut Tree Thursday noon.

During his years in Vacaville, he and his partner, Walter Brehme, founded and operated the Vaca Valley Creamery, supplying milk and milk products to Vacaville and the surrounding communities and to Travis Air Force Base during the war years. The men later sold the plant to Frank Steiner.

Werner, the son of a prominent Swiss architect, received his early schooling in Switzerland. In 1929 he left home to make his way to the United States; passage took 52 days.

He worked in many trades in Oregon and Washington, before entering the University of California, Davis, where he specialized in animal science and dairying techniques.

Werner and Brehme operated the Vaca Rancho Dairy near Elmira for several years, and in 1933, opened their Main Street creamery and fountain in Vacaville. Werner insisted that

the dairy products be of the highest quality, and the milk products, mainly ice cream, drew thousands of visitors to the small Main Street establishment.

In January, 1935, he married Georgiabel Gates, a Vacaville native and daughter of pioneer area ranchers, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gates.

Werner entered politics in 1940 and was elected a city councilman. Shortly after, he was named mayor of the city. In 1942 he resigned that position because he had purchased the Blake ranch — which was outside the Vacaville city limits — and moved his family there.

Werner was a charter member and a founder of the Vacaville Rotary Club in 1944, and served as president in 1954-55.

He was a member of the Vacaville Redevelopment Agency in the early 1960s, and served until the group was disbanded and the redevelopment project scuttled.

During his retirement years, he was a golfer, holding membership in the Green Valley Country Club, and also served a year as club president.

Werner was a charter member of the board of directors of the Intercommunity Hospital in Fairfield and had served in that capacity since 1956.

The Reporter, July 4, 1982

Cruces Sr.
was an avid
Fiesta Days
reporter.

Reporter file photo



1980-1989

THE PAST CENTURY

ONIONS, ONIONS, AND MORE ONIONS

Cuisine Corner feeds thousands at festival

Hey, Vacaville! Guess who's coming to dinner? And lunch, and probably a lot of snacking in between? From 5,000 to 15,000 people, that's who. And it's Don Barty's job to feed these hungry hordes.

The visitors will arrive during the second annual Vacaville Onion Festival which will run during the weekend of Sept. 8 and 9. Barty is the chairman of Cuisine Corner, which specializes in serving six onion-filled dishes — not to mention the hot dogs and hamburgers — to the thousands of expected visitors.

Barty, who retired as captain from the Vacaville Fire Department, was a chef in last year's Cuisine Corner when Remark Restaurant owner-manager Mike Kramer was the director. Barty is a lifelong Vacaville resident and has recently thrown his hat into the City Council race. ...

A member of the Fire Department for 20 years, Barty developed a talent for cooking for large numbers of hot, tired and hungry fire fighters. Eventually, Barty started cooking dinner for his wife, June.

"A long, long time ago, she was liberated from the kitchen," he says. "From there, mass feeding became fun."

The all-volunteer work force of the Cuisine Corner is made up of 150 members from local service organizations. Each volunteer will work a 4 1/2-hour shift during the two-day festival when Cuisine Corner will offer its tasty snacks from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"There's a lot of preparation in it," Barty says. "All the people from Cuisine Corner work for a week before the festival," preparing food, including those ever-present onions.

Onions, onions, and more onions are the key ingredient in the goodies included on the Cuisine Corner menu. From the very popular deep-fried onion rings ("we're doubling up on those this year," Barty says) to the new addi-

Hopefully, the highlight of the festival for most visitors is a gluttonous graze though Cuisine Corner. ...

Don Barty

tion, chicken-vegetable stir-fry, the aromatic menu should satisfy the appetites of most of the Onion Fest visitors.

Barty has compiled enough pertinent information to write a booklet for the use of present and future organizers of the food forum.

In this booklet, Barty puts the meaning of the festival into words: "The Vacaville Onion Festival is an event dedicated to the glorification of the onion. Travelers along I-80 have commented for many years about the 'aroma' of onions emanating from the Basic Vegetable Products plant. The association of Vacaville with onions is already a reality, so an onion festival seems to be very appropriate."

He goes on to say, "Hopefully, the highlight of the festival for most visitors is a gluttonous graze though Cuisine Corner where the best food possible will be presented. Whether it is or not, those of us involved in the presentation of Cuisine Corner would like to think that it is the backbone of the Onion Festival." ...

The entire festival has been underwritten by the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce. Last year's fest, which fed about 3,000 people, made a profit. "The Onion Festival supports community services," Barty writes. "The primary sources of funds come from two areas: ticket sales and Cuisine Corner. After the proceeds of the event, less the expenses, the profit is returned to the community of Vacaville and surrounding areas."

By Kathy Thomas, Food Editor
The Reporter, Aug. 1, 1984



The onion is king in Vacaville, especially when "Onion Queen" Mac McDeavitt (left) promoted the 1989 Onion Festival. With him are "Scallions" (from left) Neva Price, Jo Hefner and Jan Aldrich. Onion recipes were showcased at Cuisine Corner, where Michael Stewart (above) found onion bread during the 1986 festival.

Reporter file photos

Second 'Great Onion Festival' being set

It was almost inevitable the onion would come home to roost in Vacaville.

After all the years of Basic Vegetable Products' chopping, grinding and pulverizing onions, then shipping the results all over the world, a small group of pro-kid Vacans has suggested it might be to the community's advantage to offer the world the 2nd Great Onion Festival.

"We know Vacaville is the city with flavor," explained Tom McNunn, vice president/manager of the Chamber of Commerce. "There's been a groundswell from people asking us when we should do it. It

would be a great asset."

The festival is the inspiration of the private, non-profit Children's Fund, which earned \$5,000 in October by organizing the first "Great Onion Festival" dance with the Marzigliano Sisters.

The six-member board of directors for the fund received large donations from various companies, not the least of which was Basic Vegetable Products, the firm that has made Vacaville famous for its odoriferous onion ambiance six months of the year.

While Basic donated lots and lots of onions, its onion products and money to the

festival, other supportive businesses including the Nut Tree, Hahn Distributing Co., Rax Roast Beef and Vasquez Deli.

Picture the scene next year as festival promoters do: Gourmet judges wandering from pot to pot in search of "the finest onion soup; a Vacaville onion queen — and maybe even king — crowning; onion dolls; onion wreaths; onion knicknacks; onion sack races; onion harvesting contests; onion ring toss; onion frisbees; onion dances; onion odes ...

By Susanne Rockwell, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 3, 1982

An era of dehydrating ends as Basic Vegetable closes

By Amy Gingerich
Staff Writer

When Basic Vegetable Products Inc. moved from Vacaville in September 1986, the company took with it hundreds of jobs and the aroma of onions that had hovered over Vacaville for 53 years.

Basic Vegetable had been a mainstay in the business community and, during the Depression, had put Vacaville on the map as the onion dehydrating capital of the world.

On Aug. 5, 1985, company officials announced the Vacaville dehydrating operations would be moved to its plant in King City. The shutdown would take 12 months and would affect some 475 seasonal workers and 160 year-round employees. Corporate offices, where about 100 administrators worked, were to remain in Vacaville.

Basic Vegetable was a year old in 1933 when brothers William and Jaquelin Hume and partner J.B. Pardieck moved its operations from Texas to Vacaville, where they believed the climate would be better.

In Vacaville, Jaquelin Hume persuaded Ed Uhl, a prominent local rancher and the driving force behind the Monticello Dam, to rent a prune

dehydrator to him in the off season. During the first year, Basic produced 40,000 pounds of dried onion and garlic.

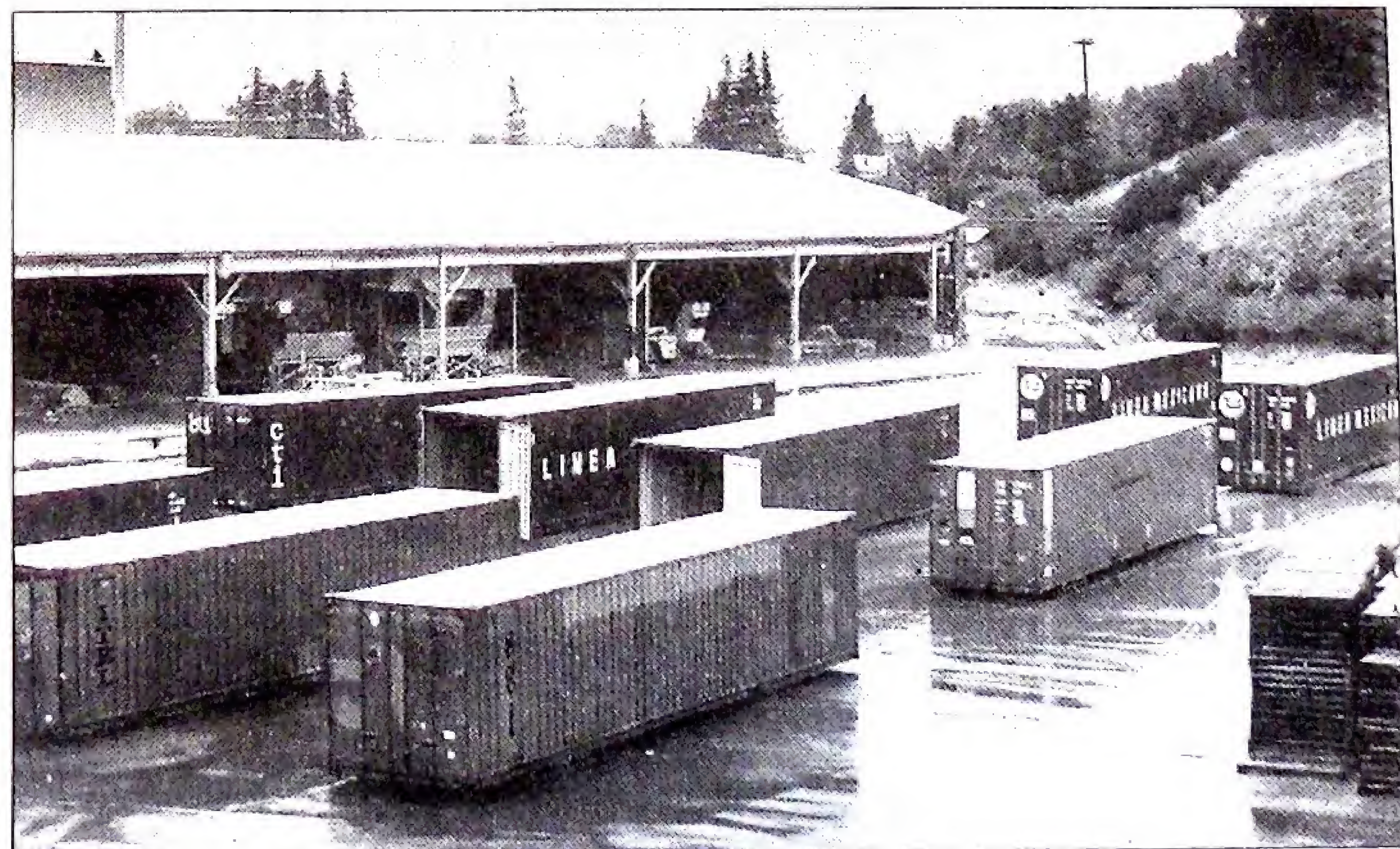
By the time World War II came on, the company had expanded into a new facility on Davis Street. With the advent of war, Basic began supplying dried onion chips to the armed forces — a profitable venture.

"We expanded tremendously," Jaquelin Hume said in a 1982 Reporter interview. "Then we were faced with the end of the war in 1946 and with a very much expanded plant and an expanded organization, and only a civilian market for the original million pounds."

The company permanently added dehydrated potatoes to its line of products and continued to employ as many as 900 workers during peak seasons.

Yet as early as 1982 — the year the city rallied to celebrate the company's 50th anniversary and to honor retiring founder Jaquelin Hume — Vacaville's Basic plant had begun to take a smaller role in overall production, as the dehydrating operations were being shifted to the San Joaquin Valley.

When Basic finally announced the Vacaville plant's closure, among the reasons officials cited



Reporter file photo

A year after it closed in 1986, the Basic Vegetable plant was deserted. The Davis Street site was developed in the 1990s and is home to movie theaters, a skating complex and restaurants.

was a lower demand for dehydrated onion and garlic products, due in part to lowered tariffs for foreign competitors.

Union representatives praised Basic for giving employees so much notice about the closure. Yet, when the time finally came, it wasn't any easier to close the doors.

Some employees had worked for Basic Vegetable for more than 40 years — the company was known for its low employee turnover.

The 1986 closure came just two weeks before the city's third Onion Festival, a fund-raiser for local service organizations and a tribute to the city's vegetable dehydrating tradition.

Our music has been filling your Vacaville homes for decades.

Our History: 1980-1989

We grew in the '80's.

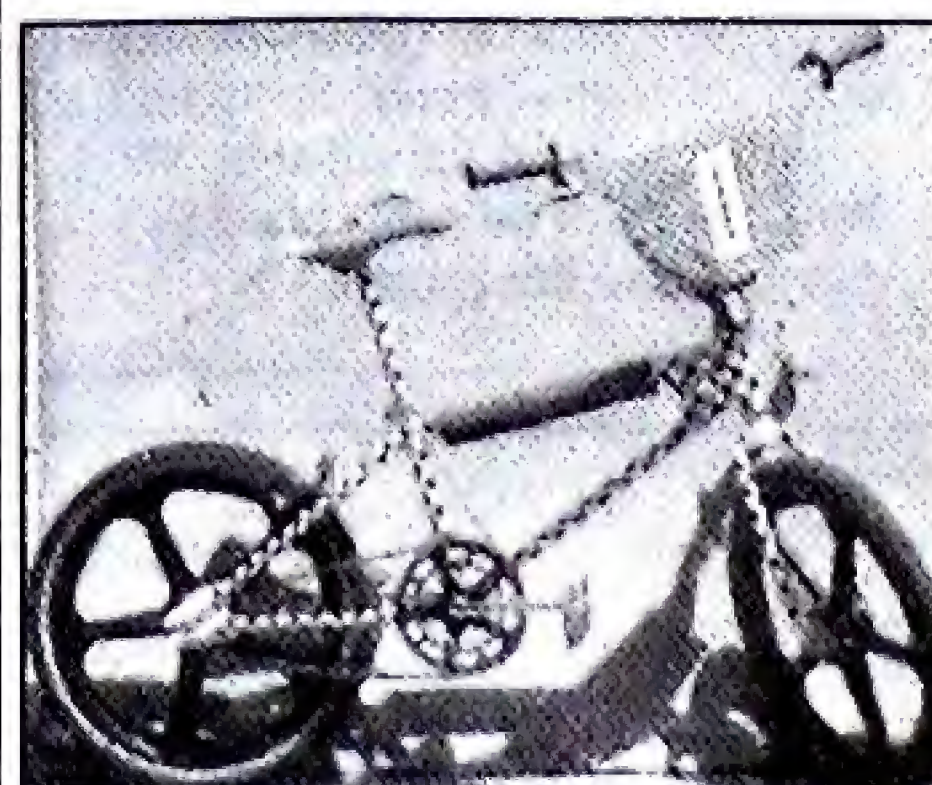
October 1983, we moved from our 302 Parker Street location to 359 Merchant Street. That move gave us more space to expand our movie rentals and CD departments, as well as an overall increase in square footage to offer our customers more selections and variety.



Marge & Bill Carroll

Vacaville Music
359 Merchant St., Vacaville
707-448-3651

Pedaling back the years



1980 Custom Checkered Mongoose

1980 Custom Checkered Mongoose repainted in 1982. With the '80's came a movie called "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" which spawned a checkered craze. Other than the paint job this 1980 Mongoose sported Mongoose forks, Mongoose 1 piece cranks, Black Sugino Spider, blue 45t alloy chainring, blue Shimano DX brake lever and pedals, graphite Skyway Tuff-II rims w/ freewheel, front and rear Competition 3 tires, rear brake guard, Izumi chain, Kashimax Aero seat, blue Tuff Neck stem, blue Suntour seat clamp and much more.

Ray's Cycle

400 Main St., Downtown Vacaville, 448-1911
1121 Texas St., Downtown Fairfield, 428-1911

DEATHS

Jimmy Durante, comedian, 1/29/80, age 86

Jesse Owens, Olympic track star, 3/31/80, age 66

Alfred Hitchcock, filmmaker, 4/28/80, age 80

Steve McQueen, actor, 11/7/80, age 50

Joe Louis, undefeated heavyweight boxing champion, 4/12/81, age 66

Bob Marley, reggae music star, 5/11/81, age 36

Natalie Wood, actress, 11/28/81, age 43

John Belushi, actor/comedian, 3/5/81, age 33

Leroy "Satchel" Paige, first black pitcher in the American League, 6/8/82, age 75

Ingrid Bergman, actress, 8/29/82, age 67

Grace Kelly, princess of Monaco and former actress, 9/14/82, age 53

Karen Carpenter, singer, 2/4/83, age 32

Tennessee Williams, playwright, 2/25/83, age 71

George Balanchine, dancer/choreographer, 4/30/83, age 79

Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight boxing champion, 5/31/83, age 86

R. Buckminster Fuller, scientist/inventor, 7/1/83, age 87

Harry James, band leader/trumpet virtuoso, 7/5/83, age 67

Ira Gershwin, lyricist, 8/17/83, age 86

Ray A. Kroc, builder of the McDonald's hamburger franchise, 1/14/84, age 81

Ansel Adams, photographer, 4/26/84, age 82

William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist/band leader, 4/26/84, age 79

Richard Burton, actor, 8/5/84, age 58

Truman Capote, author, 8/25/84, age 59

Francois Truffaut, director, 10/21/84, age 52



MEDICINE

A new plague

The official announcement of what will become known as the AIDS epidemic appears June 5, 1981, in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, issued by the Centers for Disease Control. It reports five cases of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia among homosexual men in Los Angeles. A month later, *The New York Times* reports that 41 young men, most of them gay, have contracted Kaposi's sarcoma. The disease, usually not fatal, has quickly killed eight of the men.

Doctors initially call the disease "gay-related immunodeficiency" (GRID). But its spread to other groups leads to a broader term — acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS.

TRENDS

That exasperating cube

The Rubik's Cube, designed in 1974 by Hungarian architecture professor Erno Rubik, is marketed in

America in 1980. For the next year and a half, much of the nation becomes obsessed with the puzzle. The multicolored cube has six sides, each with nine squares. The object is to align the cubelets so each side of the big cube is one color. Mathematicians calculate that this can be done 13,252,003,274,489,856,000 ways.

New in 1980
■ Post-it notes, from 3M Corp.
■ RU-486 "abortion" pill, from Roussel Uclaf of Paris

New in 1981
■ MTV, the first 24-hour music channel, aimed at 12- to 34-year-olds, launched by Warner Amex Satellite Entertainment Co. to 2.5 million subscribers in 48 states.

■ The IBM PC, or personal computer. About 25,000 units will sell in 1981; this number will soar to 3 million by 1984.

■ Pac-Man, a video game based on a Japanese folk hero known for his voracious appetite.

New in 1982
■ "E.T. — The Extra-Terrestrial" — "Everybody," Madonna's first hit single

■ "Late Night With David Letterman," on NBC
■ Liposuction
■ USA Today, a national weekday newspaper

New in 1983
■ Cabbage Patch Kids
■ Computer mouse
■ Camcorder
■ Compact disc

New in 1984
■ PG-13 rating for films
■ "Miami Vice," on NBC
■ "The Cosby Show," on NBC

1980-1984

MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

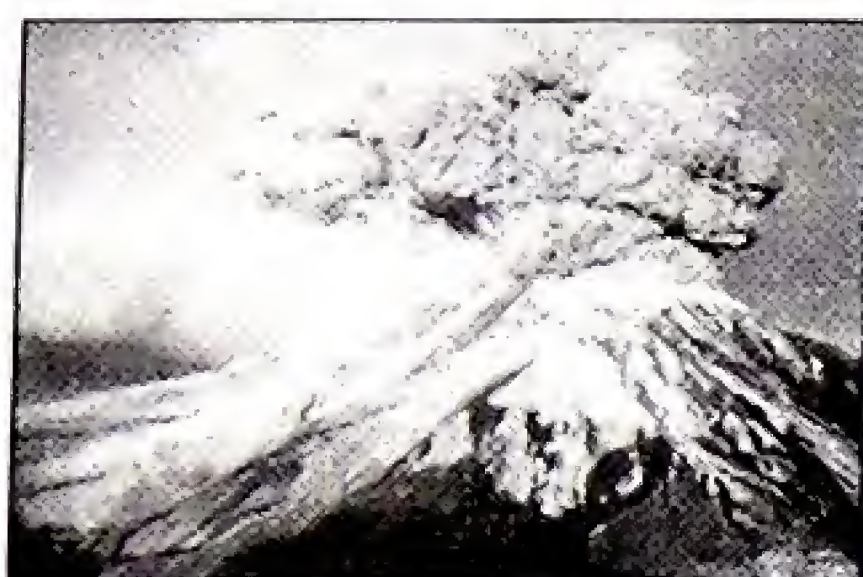
1980

■ **Jan. 4:** In a protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter announces that 17,000 metric tons of grain will not be delivered to the U.S.S.R. Carter also suspends the sale of high-tech equipment, postpones the opening of consulates in the two countries and curtails Soviet fishing privileges in U.S. waters.

■ **Feb. 24:** During the Winter Olympics, the youthful American ice hockey team beats the Soviets, the defending champions, in the semifinals and then defeats Finland in the final. The victory electrifies the United States during a time of increasing tensions with the Soviet Union.

■ **April:** The Mariel boat lift, an exodus of 125,000 Cubans to Florida, begins after Cuban leader Fidel Castro invites exiles in the United States to retrieve friends and relatives. But when the ex-patriates arrive in Cuba, they find they also have to transport passengers handpicked by Castro — many of them criminals or mentally ill. Castro's ploy undercuts U.S. immigration policy. President Carter, reneging on a promise to greet outcasts with open arms, declares the boat lift illegal.

■ **April 24:** A U.S. hostage-rescue mission in Iran ends in disaster. After three helicopters break down, the mission is aborted. During the withdrawal, one of the remaining helicopters collides with a C-130 transport plane, killing eight soldiers and injuring five.



Mount St. Helens in action.

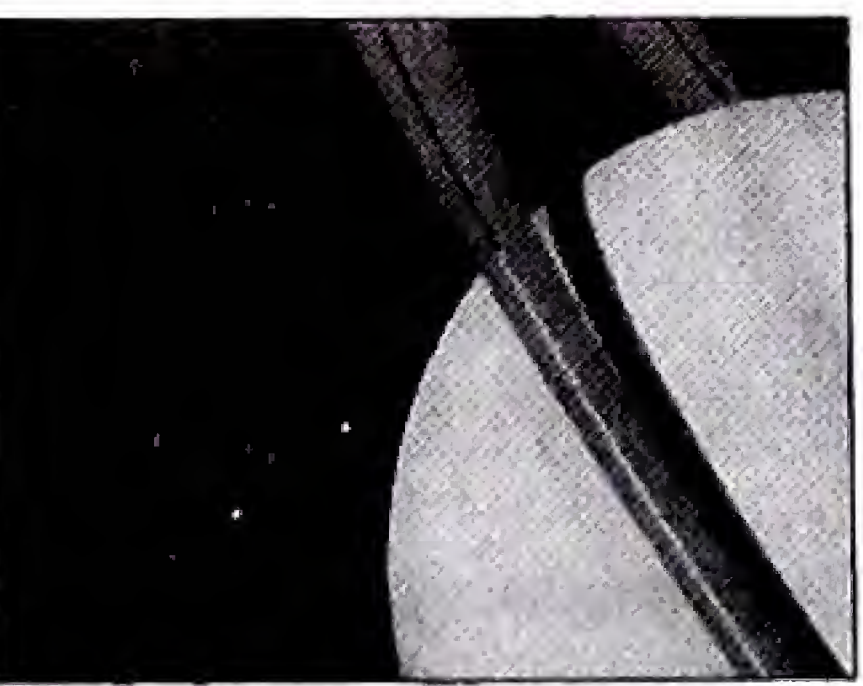
■ **May 18:** Dormant since 1857, Mount St. Helens in Washington state erupts, setting off fires, mudslides and floods, and killing nearly 60 people.

■ **July 19:** The Summer Olympics open as scheduled in Moscow. But a boycott of the Games over Soviet involvement in Afghanistan keeps athletes from the United States and several other countries from attending.

■ **Oct. 2:** In its first expulsion since 1861, the House of Representatives expels Rep. Michael Joseph Smith, D-Pa., who was convicted of bribery and conspiracy in connection with a sting operation in which FBI agents posed as Arabs and offered members of Congress cash in return for political favors.

■ **Oct. 21:** After a 98-year drought, the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Kansas City Royals to win the World Series

■ **Nov. 4:** Ronald Wilson Reagan, 69, is elected as the nation's 40th president. Reagan, a former film actor, TV show host and Republican governor of California, is the oldest president ever elected.



Saturn via Voyager 1.

■ **Nov. 12:** The unstaffed Voyager 1 probe, launched in 1977, flies within 77,000 miles of Saturn. The spacecraft finds far more rings around Saturn than had been previously identified and finds three new moons.

■ **Nov. 21:** More than half the nation's TV audience tunes in to find out "Who shot J.R.?", making that "Dallas" episode the most-watched program in TV history.

■ **Dec. 8:** Former Beatle John Lennon, 40, is fatally shot five times in front of his home in Manhattan by a crazed fan, Mark David Chapman, 25.



COURTESY OF APPLE COMPUTER

Apple unveils the Macintosh

In a TV commercial playing off George Orwell's 1984, a group of faceless people sit in a room, listening to a Big Brother figure droning on a large video screen. A young woman, wearing a white tank top and red running shorts, runs into the room. She stops, positions herself, then flings a track-and-field hammer at the screen, shattering the Big Brother image.

With this commercial, which airs during Super Bowl XVIII, Apple introduces its new computer, the Macintosh, and throws the home-computing revolution into high gear.

One of the first 32-bit comput-

ers, the Mac gives Apple a big edge over rival IBM, which until recently had been the home-computing champ with its line of 16-bit machines.

Spurred by the rivalry and the increasing "user-friendliness" of the machines, the home-computer industry does a booming business in 1984. Likewise, the commercial — known as 1984 and directed by Ridley Scott — revolutionizes advertising; its success leads to the Super Bowl becoming the showcase for ad debuts.

The game itself is a yawner, with the Los Angeles Raiders defeating the Washington Redskins 38-9.

1981

■ **March 20:** Jean Harris, 56, former headmistress of the Madeira School for Girls in McLean, Va., is sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for second-degree murder in the shooting of her lover, Herman Tarnower, 69, author of "The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet."

■ **March 30:** President Reagan is shot while leaving the Washington Hilton. Reagan is rushed to a hospital, where he walks in and collapses. Doctors remove a bullet from Reagan's left lung. Press secretary James Brady suffers a wound to the head that will leave him handicapped. A Secret Service agent and a police officer are also shot but will recover. On June 21, 1982, gunman John W. Hinckley Jr. will be found not guilty by reason of insanity.

■ **April 4:** Henry Gabriel Cisneros, 33, is elected mayor of San Antonio, becoming the first Mexican-American mayor of a major U.S. city.

■ **April 12:** The space shuttle Columbia is launched on its maiden flight.

■ **May 10:** Francois Mitterrand defeats Valery Giscard d'Estaing to become the first Socialist elected president of France.

■ **May 13:** Pope John Paul II is shot twice by escaped Turkish convict Mehmet Ali Agca, 23. The pontiff undergoes more than five hours of surgery to remove portions of his intestine.



Pope John Paul II

■ **June 21:** Wayne Williams, a 23-year-old black man, is arrested and charged with the most recent of 28 killings of black children and young adults in Atlanta. In 1982, Williams will be sentenced to two consecutive life terms.



Princess Diana and Prince Charles

A right royal do

In a fairy-tale wedding with a global audience, His Highness Charles Philip Arthur George, the 32-year-old Prince of Wales and heir to the British throne, marries Lady Diana Frances Spencer, a 19-year-old kindergarten teacher, on July 29, 1981, amid pomp and pageantry in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. An estimated 750 million people around the world watch the event on television, and a million well-wishers line the route to St. Paul's, many having camped all night to secure a spot. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Robert Runcie, performs the hourlong ceremony. The newlyweds ride in a gilded horse-drawn carriage back to Buckingham Palace to begin what will become a doomed marriage.

■ **Aug. 19:** U.S. Navy fighters shoot down two Libyan jets after the Libyan fighters open fire on the U.S. warplanes. Libya claimed control of the Gulf of Sidra, where the Navy was holding exercises. The United States maintained the gulf was international waters.

■ **Oct. 6:** As thousands look on, men in Egyptian army uniforms open fire during a military parade, assassinating Anwar Sadat, the Egyptian leader who made peace with Israel.

1982

■ **Jan. 4:** NBC sportscaster Bryant Gumbel, 33, replaces Tom Brokaw as co-anchor of "Today," becoming the morning news show's first black co-host.

■ **Jan. 8:** American Telephone & Telegraph Co. agrees to divest its 22 Bell Telephone operating systems. The agreement ends an eight-year antitrust suit by the Justice Department that charged AT&T with monopolizing U.S. telephone service.

■ **Jan. 13:** Air Florida Flight 90 takes off from Washington's National Airport during a snowstorm. Less than a mile from the airport, the Boeing 737 crashes into the 14th Street bridge, striking seven vehicles, breaking apart and falling into icy water. Seventy-four of the 79 people on the plane are killed; four people on the bridge are also killed.

■ **April 2:** Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, the new leader of Argentina's military junta, orders his troops to seize the Falkland Islands. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher mobilizes more than 100 ships to retake the south Atlantic islands. Britain loses four warships to air attacks, but Argentina's negligible navy is heavily outgunned. Argentine forces surrender June 14. The junta loses credibility, Galtieri resigns, and the way is paved for a return to civilian government.

■ **May 12:** The United States Football League is founded. Planning its season on a March-to-July basis so as not to compete head-on with the National Football League, the USFL will play its first games in 1983.

■ **July 1:** The Rev. Sun Myung Moon presides over the simultaneous marriage of 2,075 couples in New York's Madison Square Garden. Moon later is sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined \$25,000 after being convicted of tax fraud and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

■ **July 3:** Martina Navratilova beats Chris Evert Lloyd to win the first of six consecutive women's singles tennis championships at Wimbledon.



Navratilova

■ **Oct. 5:** Tylenol recalls 264,000 bottles of the pain reliever after seven people die after taking capsules laced with cyanide. The killer is never found.

■ **Dec. 2:** The first successful artificial heart transplant is completed at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Barney Clark, 62, will die on March 23, 1983.

1983

■ **March 2:** The final episode of "M*A*S*H" is watched by 125 million people, the largest television audience for any program other than a sports event.

■ **April 18:** The U.S. Embassy in Beirut is almost destroyed by a car-bomb explosion that kills 63 people. Pro-Iranian terrorists are blamed.

■ **June 18-24:** Sally K. Ride becomes the first female U.S. astronaut in space.

■ **Aug. 27:** An estimated 250,000 civil-rights activists parade in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 20th anniversary of a similar march led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963.

■ **Aug. 30:** Air Force Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford becomes the first black astronaut in space.

■ **Sept. 1:** Korean Air Lines Flight 007 is torn apart by two Soviet missiles, killing all 269 people on board. The Soviets contend the plane was on a spy mission. The plane was indeed in Soviet airspace. A plausible explanation is that a crew member punched a wrong coordinate into the naviga-

tion system, sending the Boeing 747 hundreds of miles from its intended flight path.

■ **Sept. 14-26:** A scrappy crew from Australia captures the most prestigious prize in yachting, the America's Cup. For 132 years, the cup has resided in Manhattan. But this year the tides turn, and the Aussies beat the U.S. yacht Liberty four races to three.

■ **Sept. 17:** Vanessa Williams is the first black woman to be crowned Miss America. Her reign will end the next year in scandal when Penthouse announces plans to publish nude pictures of her. Williams will become the first Miss America to resign.

■ **Oct. 23:** The U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut is destroyed when a truck blows up outside the building. The driver of the truck is killed in the blast, which takes the lives of 241 Marine and Navy personnel who are in Lebanon as part of a peace-keeping force.

■ **Oct. 25:** Fearing that the Caribbean nation of Grenada may become a communist outpost, President Reagan dispatches an invasion force after a bloody coup by pro-Cuban Marxists. The action is taken partly to protect the 1,000 citizens, mostly students, on the island. By Nov. 2, the hostilities are over.

■ **Nov. 2:** A federal holiday honoring civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is designated for observance on the third Monday in January. King is the first person honored with a federal holiday since George Washington's birthday was so named.

1984

■ **Jan. 10:** The United States and the Vatican establish full diplomatic relations for the first time in 117 years.

■ **Feb. 22:** A boy known only as David, and dubbed "the boy in the bubble" because he had spent virtually all of his life in sterile isolation because of a defective immune system, dies at age 12.

■ **Feb. 28:** Michael Jackson wins eight Grammy Awards for his album "Thriller," which goes on to become the bestselling pop album of all time.

■ **June 6:** Indian troops storm a temple held by Sikh extremists, killing about 1,000 people. The militants retaliate on Oct. 31, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, 66, is assassinated. Rajiv Gandhi, her son, 48, takes her place amid continued violence.

■ **July 18:** James Oliver Huberty, 41, walks into a McDonald's in San Ysidro, Calif., with three guns and opens fire. Twenty people die and 16 are injured before a police sharpshooter kills Huberty.

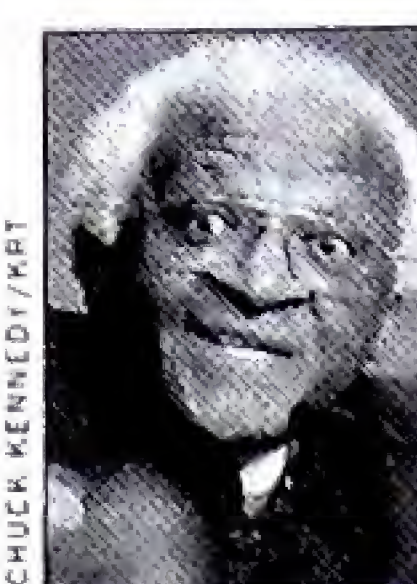
■ **Sept. 30:** China and Britain agree that the British colony of Hong Kong will revert to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, after more than 150 years of British rule.

■ **Oct. 12:** British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher barely escapes injury when a bomb explodes in a Brighton, England, hotel where she is staying during a political convention. The Irish Republican Army claims responsibility for the attack, which kills at least two people and injures 34.

■ **Oct. 26:** A baboon heart transplant to a human, the first of its kind, is performed on a 15-day-old baby girl in California. Baby Fae, who was born with a heart defect, dies Nov. 15.

■ **Dec. 3:** Disaster strikes India when a toxic gas leak at a Union Carbide insecticide plant kills more than 3,000 people and prompts the evacuation of tens of thousands of nearby residents.

■ **Dec. 10:** Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo for his nonviolent efforts to end apartheid in South Africa.



Tutu

■ **Dec. 22:** A gunman later identified as Bernhard Goetz opens fire on four black youths on a New York subway, leaving them alive but injured. The gunman says that the youths were trying to rob him, but two of the youths say they were not trying to harass the gunman. A month later a grand jury indicts Goetz only on illegal-weapons charges; however, by March 1985 he will be indicted on four counts of attempted murder. He is later acquitted but loses a \$43 million civil case to one of the shooting victims.

The Past Century - Now it's available online.

1985

■ **March 11:** Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is elevated to the Soviet Union's highest post. Gorbachev promises to revitalize the Soviet bureaucracy, but instead he plows forces that will bring down the Soviet Union and shake the world's political order.

■ **March 16:** Terry Anderson, a correspondent for The Associated Press in Beirut, is kidnapped by Arab terrorists. He will be held hostage until Dec. 4, 1991.



Anderson

■ **May 16:** Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls is named rookie of the year.

■ **June 11:** After a decade in a comatose vegetative state, Karen Ann Quinlan dies of pneumonia, ending the nation's first major right-to-die battle.

■ **June 14:** Two hooded Islamic Jihad extremists hijack TWA Flight 847 with 39 Americans aboard. Syrian authorities eventually persuade the hijackers to free the hostages June 30. One U.S. Serviceman is killed.

■ **Sept. 1:** The luxury liner Titanic, which has lain on the ocean floor for 73 years, is found in 13,100 feet of water south of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic.

■ **Sept. 16:** The Commerce Department announces that the United States has become a debtor nation for the first time since 1914.

■ **Sept. 22:** The concert Farm Aid is held in Champaign, Ill., to raise money for American farmers. A record 43,000 farms go bankrupt in 1985 as land prices fall and interest rates soar.

■ **Oct. 2:** Rock Hudson dies at age 59. The actor had disclosed in July that he had the virus that causes AIDS, making AIDS a household word.

■ **Oct. 7:** Four members of the Palestine Liberation Front hijack a cruise ship in the Mediterranean. The terrorists fatally shoot a wheelchair-bound American, Leon Klinghoffer, 69, before surrendering in Egypt on Oct. 9. The next day, as an Egyptian airliner flies the hijackers out of the country, U.S. fighter jets force it to land in Italy. The men are convicted on Nov. 19.

■ **Nov. 20-21:**

President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Geneva, agree to work toward strategic arms reduction and plan another summit meeting for 1986.



Reagan

■ **Dec. 12:** President Reagan signs into law an act that aims to eliminate the deficit by 1991.

1986

■ **Feb. 27:** After defeat at the polls, Ferdinand Marcos orders over the presidency of the Philippines to Corason Aquino and flies to Honolulu.

■ **April 8:** Movie star Clint Eastwood is elected mayor of Carmel, Calif.

■ **April 15:** A U.S. airstrike against Libya is launched in retaliation for Libya's suspected involvement in an April 5 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed two people.

■ **April 28:** Scientists in Sweden detect high radiation levels over Stockholm. Finland, Norway and Denmark report similar findings. After first denying an accident, Soviet officials confirm a "mishap" at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine. Soviet bureaucrats downplay the damage, but it soon becomes clear that the reactor is not only damaged but on fire. It releases a radiation cloud 10 times more potent than that unleashed by the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima in 1945. More than 200,000 people are evacuated, but only after a 36-hour delay.

■ **May 25:** Nearly 6 million people link hands in a chain that stretches 4,150 miles from New York to Long Beach, Calif., broken only along a few desert stretches. Sponsors of Hands Across America hoped to raise \$50 million to aid the hungry and homeless.

■ **July 27:** Greg LeMond becomes the first American cyclist to win the Tour de France race.

1985-1989

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K

'A major malfunction'

It is bitterly cold by Florida standards the morning of Jan. 28, 1986, several degrees below freezing. Icicles hang from the gantry adjoining the shuttle Challenger on its launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center as seven crew members are helped into their seats for the mission.

The crew includes a high school teacher and mother of two, Christa McAuliffe. Chosen for the Teacher-In-Space program, McAuliffe, 37, is to become the first typical citizen to travel in space.

After a two-hour delay to allow the ice to melt, the launch proceeds. Family members, including McAuliffe's parents, watch from grandstands as the shuttle begins its majestic climb at 11:38 a.m. For the first minute, it looks like every other launch. Then, after 73 seconds, disaster. "Uh-oh," says co-pilot Michael J. Smith, the last word from the spacecraft.

Giant plumes of smoke shoot out as the explosion paints history against a bright blue sky. For several seconds, there is silence for TV viewers, who can only hope that the shuttle is airborne. But a voice from



The shuttle Challenger explodes in 1986, killing all seven crew members.

mission control confirms the fears: "Obviously, a major malfunction."

In the White House, President Reagan learns that the shuttle has exploded. "Is that the one the schoolteacher was on?" he asks. The president's State of the Union address, scheduled for that evening, is put off. Instead, Reagan takes to the airwaves to reassure the nation.

The astronauts' remains are not located until March, when the crew module is found at a depth of 90 feet in the Atlantic Ocean off Florida. They are still strapped in their

seats: Mission commander Francis R. Scobee, 46; Smith, 40; McAuliffe; mission specialists Ellison S. Onizuka, 39, Ronald E. McNair, 36, and Judy Resnik, 36; and payload specialist Gregory Jarvis, 41.

A presidential commission concludes that the explosion was caused by faulty O-ring seals on the solid fuel rocket booster. Tests had shown the seals to be unreliable in cold weather. But NASA failed to heed warnings because of pressure to meet an "overambitious" launch schedule, the commission reports.

The fall of the Berlin Wall

For 28 years, it stood as the Cold War's most visible divide — a barrier of concrete and barbed wire separating the people and ideals of the East and West. So it is a stunning event when, on a chilly November day in 1989, the Berlin Wall comes tumbling down — at the hands of thousands of East and West Germans, who then clamber atop the rubble to celebrate.

Days earlier, a million East Germans gathered for the largest pro-democracy rally in the communist nation's history. On Nov. 9, officials announce that they will allow East Germans to pass through the wall to visit the West. The floodgates are open. Some use hammers to chip away at the monument to state con-



A man pounds away at the Berlin wall as guards watch from above.

trol. The next day, all border restrictions are lifted, and thousands cross back and forth.

Communism in Europe collapses quickly, one country following another. Mikhail Gorbachev had opened the gate of freedom — with such concepts as glasnost (openness), and perestroika (restructuring). In July, Gorbachev tells European leaders that the Soviets will no longer use military muscle to influence Warsaw Pact neighbors.

Less than two months later, Poland becomes the first country to transfer power to a noncommunist and gains support from Moscow. By October, thousands of East Germans have fled to the West.

■ **May 17:** The United States becomes embroiled in the Iran-Iraq War when a missile attack on the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf kills 37 sailors and badly damages the frigate. An Iraqi warplane fired two missiles by mistake, and Iraq apologizes for the attack. On Sept. 22, a U.S. helicopter attacks and damages an Iranian minelayer, and on Oct. 19, U.S. naval forces shell two offshore installations in retaliation for Iranian attacks on Persian Gulf shipping.

■ **Sept. 11:** Anchorman Dan Rather walks off the set of the "CBS Evening News" over a disagreement with management, resulting in a blank screen for five minutes.



Steve Forbes with baby Jessica.

■ **Oct. 16:** An 18-month-old girl tumbles into a 22-foot-deep well in her back yard in Midland, Texas. Jessica McClure remains trapped for 58 hours. Baby Jessica captures the hearts of worried Americans — crying for her mother and singing Winnie-the-Pooh songs — until paramedic Steve Forbes emerges with the tiny bundle in his arms.

■ **Oct. 19:** On a day that will become known as "Black Monday," the Dow Jones industrial average plummets 508 points and closes at 1738.34. The 22.6 percent decline is the worst in U.S. history, double that of the 1929 crash that ushered in the Great Depression. The collapse wipes out an estimated \$870 billion in stock values and signals an end to the free-wheeling 1980s.

1988

■ **Feb. 21:** After reports that he had committed lewd acts with a prostitute, the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart publicly confesses to "moral failure" and is directed to stop preaching for a year. But on May 22, he will preach without ministerial credentials and later be defrocked.

■ **March 15:** Pope John Paul II appoints Eugene Antonio Marino as the first black Roman Catholic U.S. archbishop.

■ **May 29-June 1:** President Reagan travels to Moscow for his fourth meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev, a summit notable not so much for progress on arms control but for the profound changes taking place in the Soviet Union under Gorbachev.

■ **July 3:** An Iranian jetliner is shot down by a U.S. Navy warship in the Persian Gulf when it is mistaken for an Iranian F-14 fighter

plane, killing 290. The cruiser at the time was fighting off attacks by Iranian gunboats.

■ **Nov. 8:** Promising a "kinder, gentler" America, George Herbert Walker Bush is elected the 41st president of the United States.

■ **Dec. 2:** Benazir Bhutto, 35, takes the oath of office as prime minister of Pakistan, becoming the first female prime minister of a Muslim country.

■ **Dec. 22:** Pan Am Flight 103 erupts into a fireball. The blazing Boeing 747 jetliner comes crashing down on Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people aboard the plane die. Eleven are killed on the ground. Within a week, investigators pin the explosion on a bomb. Several terrorist organizations are suspected.

1989

■ **Jan. 24:** Serial killer Theodore Robert Bundy is executed in the electric chair at the Florida State Prison in Starke for slaying a 12-year-old girl from Lake City, Fla. Investigators believe Bundy may have killed several dozen women.

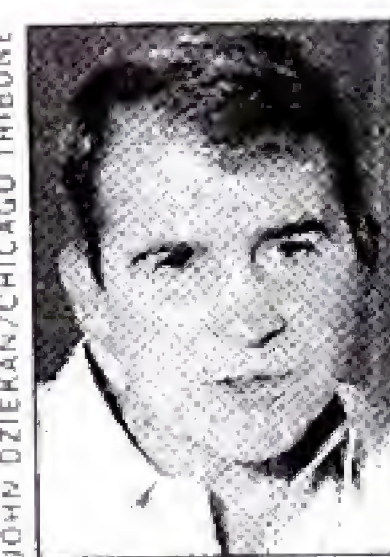
■ **Feb. 10:** Ron Brown is elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first black to lead a major American political party.

■ **Feb. 15:** The last Soviet troops pull out of Afghanistan after nine years of war against anti-communist Muslim rebels.

■ **March 24:** The supertanker Exxon Valdez runs into a reef in Alaska's ecologically sensitive Prince William Sound. Eleven million gallons of oil gush from the vessel, spoiling more than 1,000 miles of extraordinary shoreline. Close to 600,000 birds and 5,500 otters are killed from the worst spill in U.S. history.

■ **March 29:** Michael Milken, the junk bond king of Drexel Burnham Lambert, is indicted on 98 counts of racketeering, securities fraud, insider trading and other federal charges.

■ **April 19:** An explosion in a gun turret of the battleship USS Iowa kills 47 sailors.



North

the money could be given to rebels in Nicaragua. His conviction will be thrown out on appeal.

■ **May 31:** For the first time in 200 years of democracy, a House speaker resigns. Jim Wright steps down over a yearlong ethics investigation. He is accused of improperly accepting use of an apartment, a condominium and a job for his wife. Wright denies the charges, although he later says he made "errors in judgment."

■ **June 3:** The Chinese army rolls into Tiananmen Square to break up a pro-democracy demonstration that started in April. The gathering had begun with students asking for political reform, but the crowd swelled to 2 million. After martial law is imposed, the crowd thins. But several thousand students remain when they are attacked with automatic weapons and tanks. The death toll is estimated at 2,500.

■ **June 21:** The Supreme Court rules, 5-4, that burning the American flag is an expression of free speech protected by the Constitution.

■ **Aug. 9:** President Bush signs landmark legislation to bail out the ailing savings and loan industry, a \$166 billion rescue plan.

■ **Aug. 24:** Pete Rose, who in 1985 set a major-league baseball record of 4,192 career hits, is banned from the sport for life for gambling on baseball games.

■ **Oct. 17:** An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale rocks the San Francisco area. Almost 70 die, half of them crushed when freeways collapse.

DEATHS

Marc Chagall, artist, 3/28/85, age 97
Laura Ashley, fashion designer, 9/17/85, age 60
E.B. White, writer, 10/1/85, age 86
Yul Brynner, actor, 10/10/85, age 60
Orson Welles, actor/filmmaker, 10/10/85, age 70
Rick Nelson, singer and TV actor on "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet," 12/31/85, age 45
Georgia O'Keeffe, artist, 3/6/86, age 98
James Cagney, actor, 3/20/86, age 86
Benjamin Goodman, bandleader known as "The King of Swing," 6/13/86, age 75
Adm. Hyman Rickover, father of the nuclear Navy, 7/8/86, age 86
Cary Grant, actor, 11/30/86, age 80



Liberace, entertainer, 2/4/87, age 67
Andy Warhol, artist/filmmaker, 2/22/87, age 58
Rita Hayworth, actress, 5/14/87, age 68
Fred Astaire, dancer/actor, 6/22/87, age 88
Jackie Gleason, comedian, 6/24/87, age 71
John Huston, director, 8/28/87, age 81
Roy Orbison, rock 'n' roll pioneer, 12/6/88, age 52
Max Robinson, the first African-American broadcaster to host a network newscast, 12/20/88, age 49
Japanese Emperor Hirohito, 1/7/89, age 87
Salvador Dali, surrealist painter, 1/23/89, age 84
Lucille Ball, actress/comedienne, 4/26/89, age 77
Mel Blanc, the voice of Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny and Porky Pig, 7/10/89, age 81
Irving Berlin, composer, 9/22/89, age 101
Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, 9/28/89, age 72
Bette Davis, actress, 10/6/89, age 81
Vladimir Horowitz, pianist, 11/5/89, age 86
Alvin Ailey, choreographer, 12/1/89, age 58
Andrei Sakharov, physicist/dissident/Nobel Peace Prize laureate, 12/14/89, age 68
Samuel Beckett, writer, 12/22/89, age 83

TELEVISION

Oprah makes her debut

It took only one month for Oprah Winfrey to take a Chicago talk show to the top of the local ratings in 1984. Two years later, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" is syndicated nationally, and a one-name celebrity is born. In quick fashion, Oprah overtakes the daytime talk-show king, Phil Donahue, and establishes the highest-rated talk show in TV history.

SPORTS

Olympic memories

Memorable moments mark the 1988 Winter and Summer Olympics. In Calgary, Alberta, heartstrings are pulled by speed skater Dan Jansen, who learns hours before his first race that his sister has died of leukemia. He falls in both of his attempts for a medal.

At the Summer Games in Seoul, American diver Greg Louganis hits his head on the board but still wins the gold medal. Carl Lewis is awarded the gold medal for the 100-meter dash after the apparent winner, Ben Johnson of Canada, is stripped of his victory when he tests positive for steroids. Lewis takes a second gold in the long jump.

TRENDS

New In 1985
■ Nintendo video games
■ New, sweeter version of Coke that is rejected by consumers



New In 1986
■ "Platoon" (above), directed by Oliver Stone
New In 1987
■ "Dirty Dancing," with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey
New In 1988
■ Prozac, from Eli Lilly
■ The smokeless cigarette, from RJR Nabisco
■ Rogaine, the first hair-growth drug
New In 1989
■ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

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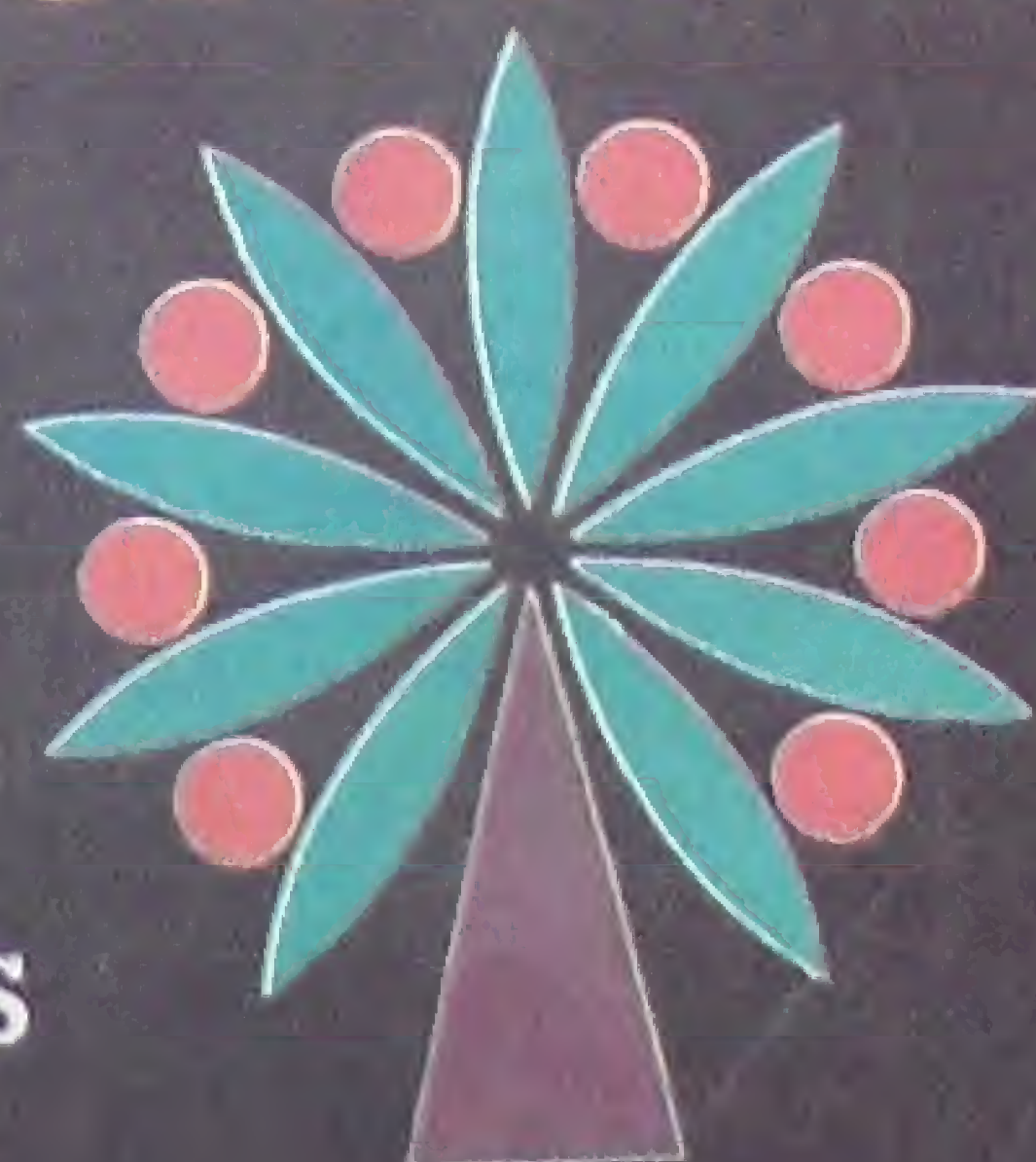
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